

Reg No. 1855

DEC 14 2016

Mr. Robert Hobbs
Mayor
Town of Bishop's Falls
PO Box 310
Bishop's Falls NL A0H 1C0

Dear Mayor Hobbs:

Re: Bishop's Falls Exploits River Tourism Development

Your proposal has been reviewed by an interdepartmental screening committee and an opportunity to comment has been provided to the public as required by the Newfoundland and Labrador *Environmental Protection Act*, SNL 2002, cE-14.2. Upon consideration of the comments received, please be advised that this undertaking is released from further environmental assessment.

The proposed work is within the designated flood area for the Town of Bishop's Falls. Please be advised, a permit is required under Section 48 of the *Water Resources Act*. Contact Dr. Ali Khan, Manager, Hydrologic Modelling Section at (709)729-2295 or akhan@gov.nl.ca. Any work within this flood risk area must comply with the department's Policy for Flood Plain Management. Under this policy, funds will not be provided to developments in flood risk areas.

Regarding the proposed Station Road site, the Newfoundland and Labrador T'Railway Provincial Park boundary runs through this site. A land exchange between the Parks and Natural Areas Division, the Town of Bishop's Falls, and Crown Lands must be completed and gazetted prior to the commencement of work at this site. Contact Ms. Sian French, Director, Parks and Natural Areas Division at (709)637-2275 or SianFrench@gov.nl.ca.

There is a shoreline reservation (10 meters) on each side of the Exploits River. The shoreline reservation is Crown Land and will require a Crown Lands application respecting the provisions of Section 7 of the *Lands Act*. Also, occupation of land covered by water will require a Crown Lands application. Please contact the Regional Lands Office in Gander, Mr. Roger Primmer, Regional Lands Manager (A), at (709)256-1400 or rprimer@gov.nl.ca regarding the application process. No activity or land clearing is to take place until the Lands Branch has issued the Crown Lands title pursuant to the *Lands Act*. Any Crown Land titles issued will be subject to those terms and conditions as prescribed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

A large portion of the Fallsview Municipal Park area being proposed for use was repatriated from Abitibi. It is the town's responsibility to acquire any lands required from the private land owner. The Town will be required to amend its Development Plan and/or Municipal

Regulations for some of the proposed developments.

Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro has informed this department that it is completing a flood study this year with the results to be available in the spring 2017. Based on the outcome of this study, Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro will be in a better position to determine risks to public safety. Land can only be developed if not required for operation and dam safety requirements. Also, increasing development may result in increased public safety measures being imposed by the hydroelectric facility on your tourism plans, therefore, you should work with Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro for any developments on the Exploits River. For example, a boom may be required across the river to protect the public and/or fencing along the shoreline.

In addition to the requirements noted above, the project is still subject to other legislative requirements. A summary of the comments received from government agencies during the review is attached to provide an indication of likely applicable permits, approvals and legislative requirements. Please note that you must comply with all relevant legislation and obtain all necessary permits and approvals. You are required to inform this Department and seek approval of any proposed significant changes to the undertaking.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Mr. Bas Cleary, Director, Environmental Assessment Division, at (709)729-0673.

Sincerely,



PERRY TRIMPER, MHA
District of Lake Melville
Minister

Attachment

cc: Hon. Siobhan Coady, Minister
Dept. of Natural Resources

Hon. Al Hawkins, Minister
Dept. of Transportation and Works

Hon. Eddie Joyce, Minister
Dept. of Municipal Affairs

Mr. Peter Robbins, Manager of Exploits and Menihek Generation
Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro