

File # 2.1129.0045
Reg. #1975

September 4, 2018

Mr. James Gaskill
Northern Harvest Smolt Ltd.
P.O. Box 460
St. Alban's, NL A0H 2E0

Dear Mr. Gaskill:

RE: Indian Head Hatchery Expansion Project – Registration 1975

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. Please be advised that this undertaking is **released** from further environmental assessment subject to the following conditions:

- The proponent shall complete a hydrogeologic assessment of the proposed groundwater source. This assessment shall be carried out by a qualified hydrogeologic professional and submitted to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment for approval. Reports on the progress of this assessment are required to be submitted to the Water Resource Management Division every two months until the assessment is complete and accepted by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment.
- The proponent shall implement a groundwater monitoring program to monitor water levels and water quality. The program must be developed with and meet the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment within two months from this release date. Water level data shall be collected continuously using a recording data logger, and selected water quality parameters will be monitored and annual reports submitted to this department for review for a period of at least two years. Extension of the monitoring and reporting beyond two years will be at the discretion of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment.
- The proponent will be required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment for the installation of a real time water quality and quantity monitoring network to monitor water levels and selected water quality parameters within two months from this release date. The type, number and location of the stations required will depend on site conditions and final operation plans. The proponent is to bear all costs associated with the groundwater monitoring network and installation, operation, and maintenance.

- The proponent shall provide proof of a minimum \$1,000,000 surety bond or guaranteed letter of credit from a recognized lending institution, to be held as financial security should the hydrological assessment and groundwater monitoring, including real-time monitoring, not be completed and as per the release condition.
- The proponent must demonstrate that waste from the hatchery can be managed in a manner that meets the approval of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment, by submitting a comprehensive Waste Management Plan prior to the commencement of hatchery operations.
- A women's employment plan for this project shall be submitted for the approval of the Women's Policy Office within one month from this release date. During the tendering process, contracted companies must be informed that a women's employment plan for the project must be submitted as a requirement of successful bidding.
- The proponent must submit clarification on the full-time status of occupations associated with the construction phase, as well as hiring arrangements for all occupations associated with the operations phase to the Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour within one month from this release date.
- The Proponent must complete a pathogen profile of the saltwater source to ensure biosecurity of the hatchery. This profile must be determined and reviewed by the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources and the company veterinarian prior to the commencement of hatchery operations.
- A health and safety plan is required if any excavation is going to take place in subsurface soil (below 1 metre depth) in the areas of identified or potential contamination. In addition, the proponent shall make workers aware of the contamination and require they wear personnel protective equipment to minimize potential exposure to contaminants.

In addition, the Water Resources Management Division of this Department advise that you must apply for and obtain a water use licence for the use of water from any water source for any purpose, as well as a non-domestic drilled well permit under Section 58 of the *Water Resources Act* for any proposed drilled well(s). A permit is also required under the *Water Resources Act* for any work in any body of water (including wetland) prior to the start of alteration/development. For further information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at (709) 729-2539.

The Pollution Prevention Division advise that any effluent or runoff leaving the site will be required to conform to the requirements of the *Environmental Control Water and Sewage*

Regulations. The Pollution Prevention Division should be contacted where analytical parameters are shown to exceed applicable provincial criteria for petroleum hydrocarbons and metals. With respect to soil, upon determination of soil impacts at any location on site, the Pollution Prevention Division or Service NL should be notified, and action should be taken by the proponent as the person responsible to ensure that such impacts are assessed and delineated, followed by properly addressing the nature of contamination through remediation or risk assessment. For further information, please contact the Pollution Prevention Division at (709) 729-4147 or (709) 729-6771.

The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources advise that a title to the subject property should be confirmed through Crown Lands as the Land Use Atlas does not have a record of a title to NL Housing or the Town of Stephenville. For additional information, please contact Crown Lands at (709) 637-2093.

Service NL advise all building drawings, plans, and specifications, including those from service bays or other areas handling used or waste oils and electrical plans, must be submitted for review and approval by Government Service Centre prior to the start of construction and/or installation. For further information, please contact Service NL at (709) 643-8650.

Although the undertaking, as proposed, is released from further environmental assessment, it 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 of any proposed significant changes to the undertaking.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Dr. Susan Squires, Director, Environmental Assessment Division, at (709) 729-0673 or susansquires@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,



ANDREW PARSONS, QC
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

Attachment

cc: John Finn, MHA, District of Stephenville – Port au Port