

COR-2023-4411

JAN 12 2024

Reg. #2273

Greg Matheson  
New Found Gold Corp.  
300 Garrett Drive  
Gander, NL A1V 1H5  
E-mail: [gmatheson@newfoundgold.ca](mailto:gmatheson@newfoundgold.ca)

Dear Greg Matheson:

**RE: Appleton Mineral Exploration Project Expansion (the Project)**

Your proposal has been reviewed by an interdepartmental environmental assessment screening committee and an opportunity to comment has been provided to the public as required by Part X of the Newfoundland and Labrador **Environmental Protection Act**, SNL 2002, cE-14.2. Please be advised that the Project is **released** from further environmental assessment subject to the following conditions:

- You must uphold all commitments made in the environmental assessment submission to mitigate the effects of the Project on the environment, including your commitments to maintain the following undisturbed minimum buffers: a 30-metre buffer on all waterbodies and wetlands that appear on 1:50,000 National Topographic Systems maps or on the topographical mapping layer of the Provincial Land Use Atlas; a 100-metre buffer on tributaries to Gander Lake; a 300-metre buffer from the high water mark around Gander Lake; and a 300-metre buffer from the high water mark around salmon pools along Gander River.
- Commitments made in the environmental assessment registration document for Reg. #2106, the Appleton Mineral Exploration project, apply to this Project, as do the conditions of release in the Minister's decision letter of December 11, 2020. The Minister's decision letter is available on the department's web page at [https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/files/env\\_assessment\\_y2020\\_2106\\_release.pdf](https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/files/env_assessment_y2020_2106_release.pdf).
- The Pollution Prevention Division (PPD) of the Department of Environment and Climate Change requires that an updated waste management plan for the Project must be approved by PPD prior to Project construction. For more information, please contact the PPD at (709) 729-5782.

- The Water Resources Management Division (WRMD) of the Department of Environment and Climate Change requires the following:
  - You must provide satellite imagery of the reclaimed areas that are within Protected Public Water Supply Areas (PPWSA).
  - You must provide an Access Road and Trail Maintenance Plan (the Plan) to the WRMD to describe measures that are currently being taken and additional measures that will be added to prevent potential surface run-off and sedimentation of access roads/trails within the PPWSA. The Plan must also describe how the roads and trails will be decommissioned.
  - You must provide a minimum of 14 days' notice to the WRMD, including the location of each drill pad, prior to drilling and trenching activities within the PPWSA.
  - You must provide an annual report to the WRMD containing information on the number of drill pads, drilling locations, the location of access trails, and the number and locations of drill sites that have been rehabilitated in the PPWSA. For more information, please contact the WRMD at (709) 729-1646.
  
- The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) requires the following:
  - Vegetation clearing is not to occur within 800 meters of a bald eagle or osprey nest during the nesting season (March 15 to July 31) and not within 200 meters of Bald Eagle or Osprey nests during the remainder of the year. The 200-meter buffer also applies to all other raptor nests (e.g., Northern Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Merlin, American Kestrel, Great-horned Owl, Boreal Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl). The location of any raptor nest site must be reported to the Wildlife Division at [endangeredspecies@gov.nl.ca](mailto:endangeredspecies@gov.nl.ca).
  
- The Provincial Archaeology Office (PAO) of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation requires that a draft Historic Resources Impact Assessment (HRIA) report must be submitted to PAO for review prior to the commencement of the Project. For more information, please contact PAO at (709) 729-2462.
  
- The Tourism Product Development Division, of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation requires a 50-meter undisturbed buffer around the following outfitting lodges:
  - Bear Cliff Lodge - Crown Lands LTO# 107866
  - Baine Johnson Properties Limited(Twelve Acre Lodge) - Crown Land LTO #98839
  - Browning Harvey Limited (Beaver Lodge) – Crown Lands 80167



For further information, please contact the Tourism Product Development Division at 709-729-4518

- You must advise the Environmental Assessment Division when the conditions of release have been met, by e-mailing a written description, documents, and images (where applicable) to demonstrate that the conditions have been fulfilled to [EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca).
- You must update the Environmental Assessment Division on the status of the Project, including a copy of all permits, licenses, certificates, approvals and other authorizations required for the Project, one year from the date of this release letter and provide additional updates if required. Please e-mail the Project updates to [EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca).

Although the undertaking as proposed is released from further environmental assessment is still subject to other legislative requirements. You must comply with all relevant legislation and obtain all necessary permits and approvals. You must inform this department of any proposed significant changes to the undertaking.

Please note that in accordance with Section 17 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, my decision is valid for a period of three years from the date of this letter. If you have not commenced the Project within this three-year period, you may apply to extend the term of my decision for a maximum of three periods of one year. Should the term of my decision expire, the Project will have to be registered again for environmental assessment, if you wish to proceed. For further information, please e-mail [EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca).

If you have any questions about the environmental assessment process, please contact Joanne Sweeney, Director of the Environmental Assessment Division, at (709) 729-0673 or via e-mail at [joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca](mailto:joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bernard Davis".

**HON. BERNARD DAVIS, MHA**  
District of Virginia Waters – Pleasantville  
Minister

Cc: The Honourable Dr. John Haggie, MHA – District of Gander