

DEC 11 2020

Reg. #2106

Greg Matheson
New Found Gold Corporation
300 Garrett Drive
Gander, NL
A1V 1H5
gmatheson@newfoundgold.ca

Dear Mr. Matheson:

Re: Appleton Mineral Exploration

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 this undertaking is **released** from further environmental assessment subject to the following conditions:

- You are required to uphold all commitments made in your environmental assessment submission to mitigate the effects of the project on the environment.
- The Water Resources Management Division of my Department requires the following:
 - The percentage of land disturbance from drill pad sites and trails in any sub-watershed within the Protected Public Water Supply Area (PPWSA) should not exceed 5% of that sub-watershed area.
 - All drill holes outside of the PPWSA must be capped. Any flowing drill holes/collars outside of the PPWSA have to be sealed with bentonite and the collar removed.
 - In drilling areas 1, 2, 6, 7 and 15, the drill holes have to be sealed with bentonite and the collar has to be removed at the end of the drilling season or end of the calendar year, whichever occurs first.
 - Bog mats should be used in wet areas of the trail through which the drill rig and other equipment has to travel to mitigate damage to the environment.
 - A water-sampling program will need to be established including locations (surface water, groundwater, and discharge water), frequency and parameters to be sampled.

- Newfound Gold Corp. has indicated that they are unable to further refine the drill hole locations at this time and will not know until the drilling has commenced. Once drilling has started and drill hole locations are known or further refined, you are required to send an updated map with drill hole locations to the Water Resources Management Division for review. For further information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at 709-729-1671.
- The Provincial Archeological Office of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation requires that a minimum 50-metre undisturbed buffer is to be maintained along the shorelines of Gander River and outflow and a 100-metre undisturbed buffer is to be maintained along the shoreline of Gander Lake. Should historic resources such as archaeological sites, objects or significant fossil be found in the area, activity must cease immediately and contact be made with the Provincial Archaeology Office in St. John's (709-729-2462) as soon as possible.
- The Office for the Status of Women requires you to develop a Women's Employment Plan for this project, to be approved by the Deputy Minister of the Office for the Status of Women. The Women's Employment Plan should identify specific commitments to support the recruitment, training, employment and retention of women. For further information, please contact the Office for the Status of Women at 709-729-5730.
- The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture requires the following:
 - A minimum 30-metre undisturbed buffer must be maintained along all waterbodies and wetlands that appear on a 1:50,000 topographical map to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic species, and their habitat; and,
 - No vegetation clearing is to occur within 800 metres of a bald eagle or osprey nest during the nesting season (March 15 to July 31) and 200 metres during the remainder of the year; the 200-metre buffer 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); and, the location of any raptor nest site must be reported to the Wildlife Division. For further information, please contact the Wildlife Division at 709-637-2025.
- You are required to advise me when the conditions of release have been met, by emailing a written description, documents, and images (where applicable) to demonstrate that the conditions have been fulfilled to EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca.

- You are required to update me on the status of your project, including a copy of all permits, licences, certificates, approvals and other authorizations required for your project, one year from the date of this release letter and to provide additional updates if required by me. Please email your project updates to EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca.

Federal and provincial government departments and agencies that reviewed your project during the environmental assessment provide the following advice:

The Government Service Centre of the Department of Digital Government and Service NL recommends that a tree screen of 30 metres is to be maintained between the highway and right of way of this property. Any existing tree screen concealing the operation from the public view is also to be maintained. For further information, please contact the Department of Digital Government and Service NL at 709-729-2104 or 709-945-3109.

The Local Governance and Land Use Planning Division of my Department advises that mineral exploration is not a permitted use in some zones within the Town of Appleton's Municipal Plan. Please note that you will be required to obtain a development permit with the Town of Appleton for mineral exploration that involves trenching and drilling within Appleton's Municipal Planning Area.

The Pollution Prevention Division of my Department recommends that you develop a comprehensive Waste Management Plan and submit it to the Pollution Prevention Division PPD for review, and notes the following:

- A comprehensive Waste Management Plan is used to develop information on the generation of liquid and solid waste (which may include domestic solid waste; special waste and waste/dangerous goods/hazardous waste) at a facility/site.
- The plan shall be comprehensive including all operations/designs (provide diagrams and photos where applicable) associated with the facility/site.
- All types of waste should be identified and a description on how the waste will be managed from generation to treatment/disposal.
- An overview should be provided on each waste type and an estimation of the quantities generated per year. The plan should incorporate the basic waste management principles of reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, and disposal options generated at the facility.
- Some waste categories may be part of industry stewardship programs (ex. paint, electronics, batteries) and every effort should be made to ensure appropriate

recovery. For further information, please contact the Pollution Prevention Division at 709-729-1810 or 709-729-1771.

The Water Resources Management Division of my Department requires you to apply for and obtain a permit for any work in any body of water (including wetlands), the use of water from any water source for any purpose, any work in the Shore Water Zone, and any infilling work within 15 metres of a waterbody, and development adjacent or within a protected public water supply area, prior to the start of construction. For further information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at 709-729-1671.

The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture notes that exploration activities should not interfere with agriculture properties or Crown Land Application #157065. Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture advises that Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited should be consulted, as the proposed activities occur on Corner Brook Pulp and Paper land tenure.

The Department of Industry, Energy and Technology notes that a parcel of land outlined in the registration document overlaps with a Newfoundland Power 138kV transmission line and a 69kV transmission line. Newfoundland Power Inc. should be consulted to ensure no electricity policy issues.

The Parks Division of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation reminds you that, under the Provincial Parks Act, a Provincial Park may not be utilized for any manner of mineral exploration or mining. The Parks Division requests that you maintain a buffer distance of 100 metres around the T'Railway Provincial Park boundary. For further information, please contact the Parks Division, at 709-637-2411.

The Provincial Archaeological Office of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation request that all site locations (UMT WGS 1984) and photographs or drone imagery post drilling are submitted to the Provincial Archeological Office to assess the requirement for post-impact assessment. For further information, please contact the Provincial Archeological Office at 709-729-2462.

The Sector Diversification Division of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation requests that you consult with the following outfitters to mitigate any potential conflict;

- John Allan, Nakiska on the River (hunting and angling lodge) 709-685-1230.
- Robert Coates, White Cliff Lodge (angling lodge), 250-263-8049/8180 or 250-827-3613.

The Sector Diversification Division recommends that you engage with the Newfoundland and Labrador Outfitters Association (NLOA). The contact for NLOA is Corey Foster, 709-639-5962 or coryfoster@nloa.ca.

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure notes that there should not be any development within the Trans Canada Highway right of way, or within the proposed Appleton bypass corridor. For further information, please contact the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure at 709-729-6110.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans advises that the modernized *Fisheries Act* includes fish and fish habitat protection provisions which came into effect on August 28, 2019. If you are conducting work in or near water you should refer to the Projects Near Water website to get information about how to comply with the Fisheries Act and as well as information on the project review process. The "Projects Near Water" website is located at <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html>. For further information, please contact the Fisheries Protection Program at 709-772-4140.

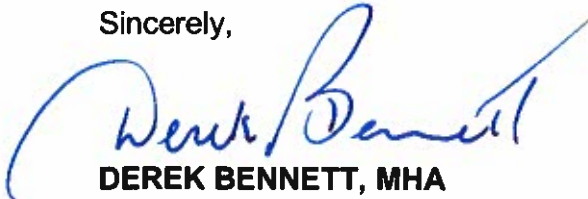
Transportation Canada notes that there are a variety of proposed activities within the registration document that involve water, such as culverts, water withdrawal etc. Under the Canadian Navigable Waters Act, owners of works that are located on navigable waterways not listed on the schedule, which may interfere with navigation have the option to either apply to the Minister for Transport, or seek authorization through the public resolution process. Both processes have a 30 day public review process. Both the application process and the public resolution process on the registry can be access at the following link <https://npp-submissions-demandes-ppn.tc.canada.ca/>.

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.

Please note that in accordance with Section 17 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, the Minister's decision is valid for a period of three years from the date of this letter. If you have not commenced your project within this three year period, you may apply to extend the three-year period for a maximum of three one-year periods, if needed.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Joanne Sweeney, Director (A), Environmental Assessment Division, at 709-729-0673 or joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,



DEREK BENNETT, MHA
Minister
District of Lewisporte – Twillingate

Enclosures

cc: Hon. John Haggie, MHA
Gander