

DEC 21 2020

Reg. # 2107

Jason Dalton  
Newfoundland Power  
55 Kenmount Road  
P.O. Box 8910  
St. John's NL A1B4P3  
[jdalton@newfoundlandpower.com](mailto:jdalton@newfoundlandpower.com)

Dear Mr. Dalton:

**Re: Power Transmission Line Replacement – Gambo to Port Blandford**

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 Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture requires the following:
  - The Forestry and Wildlife Branch requires a minimum 30 metre naturally vegetated buffer be maintained along streams and waterbodies that appear on a 1:50,000 topographical map to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic species, and their habitat.
  - 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). The 800 metre 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.
  - You are required to provide spatial information for infrastructure associated with this project, such as the location of access roads, maintenance roads and quarries. For further information, please contact the Department of Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture at (709) 729-0831.

- You are required to advise the Environmental Assessment Division 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](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca).
- You are required to update the Environmental Assessment Division 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. Please email your project updates to [EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca).

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

The Climate Change Branch of this Department suggests that you consider provincial climate change projections for Gander (nearest regional site) in the planning for this undertaking. The Climate Change Branch notes that the clearing of trees and brush can contribute to climate change and all heavy duty equipment used in the construction phase of this project should be operated in a manner to maximize fuel efficiency, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions that could contribute to climate change. For further information, please contact the Climate Change Branch at (709) 729-1485.

The Local Governance and Land Use Planning Division of this Department advises that a development permit is required from the Towns of Gambo, Glovertown, Terra Nova, and Port Blandford. For further information, please contact the Local Governance and Land Use Planning Division at (709) 729-3090.

The Pollution Prevention Division of this Department provides advice for waste management, air pollution, pesticide control, storage and handling of gasoline and associated products, halocarbons, and Environmental Control Water and Sewage. They also provide two guidance documents entitled the Best Management Practices for the Storage of Waste Dangerous Goods/Hazardous Waste and Guidance Document on Treated Wood Waste Disposal found at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccm/files/env-protection-waste-guidancedocs-gd-ppd-077-best-management-practices-for-the-storage-of-waste-dangerous-goodshazardous-waste-wdghw-at-business-sites.pdf> and <https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccm/files/env-protection-waste-guidancedocs-gd-ppd-075.1treated-wood-waste-disposal-.pdf>, respectively. For further information, please contact the Pollution Prevention Division at (709) 729-5782.

The Water Resources Management Division of this Department advises that you are required to obtain permits to alter a body of water, work in Shore Water Zones, infilling work within 15 metres of a body of water, or to conduct work inside a Protected Public Water Supply Area. The Water Resources Management Division notes that the proposed development is adjacent to or within the Middle Brook Protected Public Water Supply Area servicing the Community of Port Blandford. Work adjacent to or within this designated Protected Public Water Supply Area must comply with this Department's Policy for Land and Water Related Developments in Protected Public Water Supply Areas. They also advise that you should only use poles treated with copper azole near private drinking water wells. For further information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at (709) 729-1646.

The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture advises that you must obtain permits for commercial cutting, and an operating permit and permit to burn during forest fire season. They also provide advice regarding works on private lands and cottage planning areas. For further information, please contact the Department of Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture at (709) 729-0831.

The Government Service Centre of the Department of Digital Government and Service NL has provided advice on waste, pollution control and development control. For further information, please contact the Government Service Centre at (709) 256-1426.

The Mines Branch of the Department of Industry, Energy and Technology advises that should you require a quarry permit or subordinate quarry permit you should contact the Quarry Rights Section at [quarries@gov.nl.ca](mailto:quarries@gov.nl.ca). For further information, please contact the Department of Industry, Energy and Technology at (709) 729-5748.

The Provincial Parks Division of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation requires you to obtain a permit for vehicular use on the Newfoundland and Labrador T'Railway Provincial Park. For further information, please contact the Provincial Parks Division at (709) 637-8077.

Environment and Climate Change Canada recommends that you consider nesting locations in this region between April 15th and August 15th, in order to avoid nest destruction and to accommodate the breeding season of migratory songbirds and waterfowl. Environment and Climate Change Canada advise that project staff should not approach concentrations of seabirds, sea ducks or shorebirds and request that you notify them if there is any noticeable change in seabird numbers or distribution at the project location during operations. For further information, please contact Environment and Climate Change Canada at (709) 772-2126.

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.

Transport Canada advises that you can assess the individual watercourse crossings against the criteria in the *Minor Works Order* (Section 6 - Aerial Cables - Power and Telecommunication) at <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/programs-675.html> to determine whether or not an approval is required. For further information, please contact the Navigation protection Program at (506) 851-3113.

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. 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. For further information, please email [EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derek Bennett".

**DEREK BENNETT, MHA**  
Minister  
District of Lewisporte - Twillingate

Enclosures

cc: Lloyd Parrott, MHA  
District of Terra Nova

Hon. John Haggie, MHA  
District of Gander