

# GUIDELINES

for

## Environmental Preview Report

for the

### *Rennies River Flood Mitigation Portugal Cove Road to King's Bridge Road*

**Honourable Bernard Davis**

Minister

Environment and Climate Change

April 21, 2021

Registration No. 2115

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PREVIEW REPORT GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines are intended to assist the proponent with the preparation of the Environmental Preview Report (EPR) for the proposed undertaking. The EPR is a report that presents the results of an investigation based on readily available information that supplements the information provided by the proponent upon registration of the undertaking. The purpose of the information in the EPR is to assist the Minister of Environment and Climate Change in making a determination as to the potential for significant environmental effects from the proposed undertaking and whether an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be required. The EPR is expected to be as concise as possible while presenting the comprehensive information necessary to make an informed decision.

The EPR should include and update the information provided in the original registration document(s) and focus on the information gaps identified during the government and public review of the registration. The EPR should address the information gaps in sufficient detail to enable the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to make an informed decision as to the potential for significant environmental effect from the undertaking.

The contents of the EPR should be organized according to the following format:

### **1. NAME OF UNDERTAKING:**

The undertaking has been assigned the Name "*Rennies River Flood Mitigation Portugal Cove Road to King's Bridge Road*"

### **2. PROPONENT:**

Name the proponent and the corporate body, if any, and state the mailing and e-mail address.

Name the chief executive officer if a corporate body, and telephone number, fax number and e-mail address.

Name the principal contact person for purposes of environmental assessment and state the official title, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address.

### **3. THE UNDERTAKING:**

State the nature of the project.

State the purpose/rationale/need for the project. If the proposal is in response to an established need, this should be clearly stated. Identify needs that are immediate as well as potential future needs.

If the project had changed form the original project description in the Environmental Assessment (EA) registration document, clearly identify the proposed changes and state the rational for the change(s).

#### **4. DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING:**

Provide a complete overview of the project in the following subsections, including information about the preferred choice of location, design, construction standards, operation and maintenance standards, etc.

##### **4.1 Geographical Location / Physical Components / Existing Environment:**

Provide an accurate description of the proposed berms and erosion control measures along Rennies River, including GPS location coordinates. Attach an original base map (1:25,000 scale) and/or recent air photos/aerial imagery.

Provide information regarding ownership and/or zoning of the land upon which the project is to be located and any restrictions imposed by that ownership or zoning, including municipal ownership/zoning, Crown, and private land.

Clearly describe the current ground water levels in the area around the proposed berms and erosion control measures.

##### **4.2 Construction:**

State the time period in which proposed construction will proceed (if staged, list each stage and its approximate duration) and proposed date of first physical construction-related activity.

Provide the details, materials, methods, schedule, and location of all planned construction activities.

Describe the potential sources of pollutants during the construction period(s) including soil erosion, sedimentation and siltation.

Identify potential causes of resource conflicts during the construction phase(s) including temporary disruption of the use of Rennies River Trail and disruption of fish habitat.

Describe any potential impacts of the construction on the area, including but not limited to the established trees along the river.

### **4.3 Operation and Maintenance:**

All aspects of the operation and maintenance of the proposed berms and erosion control measures should be presented in detail.

Identify how the project will avoid interference with the rights of other legitimate land owners/users.

Describe the potential effects of water-logging inside the earthen berm structure and a drainage plan for post-construction water logging.

Describe measures that will be implemented to address localized surface water draining to Rennies River that will be inhibited by the berm structure.

## **5. ALTERNATIVES**

Alternative means of carrying out the project to meet the stated purpose and rationale must be provided.

The EPR must identify and describe alternative means and locations of carrying out the project that are technically and economically feasible. The following steps for addressing alternative means and locations are recommended:

- a) Identify any alternative means and locations to carry out the project;
- b) Identify the environmental effects of each alternative means and location, including the approximate river changes for each of the flood mitigation measures along the river channel for each of the difference scenarios;
- c) Explain why the installation of the berms near King's Bridge Road and the erosion control measure for Portugal Cove Road were identified to be completed before flood control measures further upstream;
- d) Provide reasons for the rejection of alternative sites; and
- e) Identify why the proposed berms does not contain any drainage mechanisms to prevent localized pooling of water.

Include information from previous project related studies describing alternate locations that were considered, including the expansion of existing sites, reasons for rejection, and reasons supporting the proposed site as the preferred location, if applicable.

Alternative locations should be clearly outlined on maps of a suitable scale (i.e. 1:50,000, 1:25,000) and aerial imagery.

## **6. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS and MITIGATION:**

Provide detailed information regarding the potential effects of the project on the environment and the proposed mitigation to be used to avoid adverse environmental effects.

Describe the expanded flood plain (including mapping) upstream as a result of the proposed berm and erosion control measures. This must include the effect of the expanded flooding on private and public property, and the measures that will be undertaken to mitigate the effects of the expanded flood plain.

Describe the environmental impact of the impermeability of the berm and erosion control measures on the localized water ability to drain into the river canal.

Describe the change in the river morphology and flow velocity at the berm section, upstream and downstream of the berm and riverbank stabilization.

Describe the effect of the berms and the erosion control measures may have on groundwater levels, and the measures that will be undertaken to mitigate the effects.

Describe measures that will be undertaken to ensure a quick and effective response to a potential spill event associated with petroleum products, i.e heavy equipment leak.

## **7. PROJECT- RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

Provide a bibliography of all project-related documents already generated by or for the proponent (e.g., September 17, 2019 report, feasibility study, engineering reports, etc).

## **8. PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING:**

An Open House Public Information Session shall be held at a place adjacent to or in the geographical area of the undertaking, or as the minister may determine, in order to:

- a) provide information concerning the undertaking to the people whose environment may be affected by the undertaking;
- b) present the information gathered to fulfill the requirements of Section 5 of these guidelines;
- c) record and respond to the concerns of the local community regarding the environmental effects of the undertaking; and,
- d) present the public concerns and measures that will be implemented to address those concerns in a separate section of the EPR.

You are required to notify the Minister and the public of the scheduled meeting **not fewer than 7 days** before that meeting. Public concerns shall be addressed in a separate section of the EPR.

Protocol for these public sessions will comply with Section 10 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2003. Public notification specifications are outlined in Appendix A.

**9. APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING:**

List the main permits, licences, approvals, and other forms of authorization required for the undertaking, together with the names of the authorities responsible for issuing them (e.g., federal government department, provincial government department, municipal council, etc.)

The required 5 copies of the EPR, and an electronic version for posting to the Environmental Assessment website, should be sent together with a covering letter to:

Minister  
Environment and Climate Change  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's NL A1B 4J6

## APPENDIX A

### Public Notices

Under the provisions of the Environmental Assessment Regulations 2003, Section 10, and where the approved Guidelines require a public information session(s), the following specified public notification requirements must be met by the proponent prior to each meeting:

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public Information Session on the Proposed

*Name of undertaking*  
*Location of undertaking*

shall be held at  
*Date and Time*  
*Location*

This session shall be conducted by the proponent,  
*Proponent name and contact phone number,*  
as part of the environmental assessment for this project.  
The purpose of this session is to describe all aspects of the proposed project,  
to describe the activities associated with it, and to provide an opportunity for all  
interested  
persons to request information or state their concerns.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

#### **MINIMUM INFORMATION CONTENT OF PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT**

- Minimum newspaper ad size: 2 column widths. Minimum posted ad size: 7" x 5"
- Minimum newspaper ad coverage: Weekend preceding meeting and 3 consecutive days prior to meeting date; to be run in newspaper locally distributed within meeting area or newspaper with closest local distribution area.
- Minimum posted ad coverage: Local Town or City website (if permitted), proponent's web site (if applicable), and local community channel (if applicable), to be posted continually for 1 full week prior to meeting date.