

JUL 21 2021

COR/2021/01739

Reg. # 2140

Mr. Partick Lauzière
Iron Ore Company of Canada
1 Retty Street
Sept-Îles, QC G4R 3C7
Patrick.lauziere@ironore.ca

Dear Mr. Lauzière:

Re: IOC Smallwood North Expansion

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.
- A Water Resources Management Plans must be submitted to the Water Resources Management Division and the Pollution Prevention Division of my Department for approval, prior to project commencement.
 - The Water Resources Management Division requires that the Water Resources Management Plan address the following concerns:
 - If there are any brooks, rivers, ponds, streams or wetlands present in or within 30 metres of the boundaries of the project site, provide the type of water body and its distance from the site.
 - If any of the above-mentioned water bodies are impacted by site operation, describe how the water body will be impacted. A permit/licence from the Water Resources Management Division may be required.

- If there is any potential of onsite drainage water or dewatering water to discharge into a natural water body, describe what precautionary measures, such as vegetative cover, filter strip, silt curtain, etc., are to be deployed to ensure the effluent or runoff meets the requirements of the *Environmental Control Water and Sewage Regulations, 2003*.
- For further information, please contact the Water Rights, Investigations, and Modelling Section at (709) 729-1646 or via email at leahburry@gov.nl.ca.
- The Pollution Prevention Division requires that the plan provide details of the potential impacts on groundwater and surface water as of result of the proposed activity. For further information, please contact the Pollution Prevention division at (709) 729-5782.
- The Water Resources Management Division advises that the hydraulic connection between Lorraine Lake, Dorothy Lake and the proposed pit requires further investigation. A groundwater assessment, including a model of groundwater flow, must be completed for the proposed pit. An initial report with currently available data must be submitted and approved by the Water Resources Management Division prior to commencing any work related to the project, with follow up reports to be submitted annually until the groundwater assessment is complete. For further information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division, Groundwater Section at (709) 729-1671.
- The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture requires that 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 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.

- 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 .

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

The Pollution Prevention Division of my Department advises that this undertaking will require an amendment to the Certificate of Approval (COA). It is anticipated that the monitoring requirements identified for the construction and operation of this project will be incorporated into the COA. For more information, please contact the Pollution Prevention Division at (709) 729-5782.

The Water Resources Management Division of my Department requires you to apply for and obtain permits for any work within any body of water, non-domestic water use for any purpose, and infilling within 15 metres of a body of water. You are advised to comply with the Department's Policy for Infilling Bodies of Water. For more information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at (709) 729-1646.

The Department of Digital Government and Service NL advises that any current or future facility constructed on the site is not to be occupied until such a time it is connected to the Town's water supply and sewage disposal system. If the Town's water and sewer is not available for the new development, then a private sewage disposal system is required to be installed. For more information, please contact the Department of Digital Government and Service NL at (709) 944-4282.

The Department of Industry, Energy and Technology requires you to submit a development plan, a rehabilitation and closure plan, and provide financial assurance as per Section 4 of the Mining Act. Industry, Energy and Technology advises that the Wabush 3 Benefits Agreement applies to the construction and operation of the Smallwood North Pit Expansion project. For more information, please contact the Engineering Analysis Section of Industry, Energy, and Technology at (709) 729-6449 or email matthewsnow@gov.nl.ca.

The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture advises that a commercial cutting permit is required prior to any harvesting or timber removal, and an operations permit is required prior to the start of any work during the forest fire season. For further information, please contact the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture at (709) 729-1140.

The Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Department of Digital Government and Service NL advises you to ensure that the activities associated with the development are conducted in compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations. This includes the responsibility for ensuring that contractors hired to perform work also comply with this legislation. The Occupational Health and Safety Division reminds you to consider procedures associated with the protection of workers related to COVID-19. Procedures must follow the requirements set forth by the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Newfoundland and Labrador (e.g. physical distancing, handwashing).

Environment and Climate Change Canada recommends that in order to avoid nest destruction and to accommodate the breeding season of migratory songbirds and waterfowl, operations should consider nesting locations between April 25 and August 15 in this region. Environment and Climate Change requests that you provide a GIS file of the project boundary and study area so that the project can be mapped, and advises you to consider the effects of project lighting design on migratory birds and species at risk. Finally, Environment and Climate Change Canada notes that you will be conducting additional surveys for any future development and informs that they are available to review survey protocols prior to implementation, if desired. 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 indicates that infilling or dewatering of any navigable waterway would require an Exemption by Order of the Governor in Council pursuant to Section 24 of the Canadian Navigable Waters Act. You must submit an Application for Approval detailing the work, its effects, and the nature of the water bodies that may be involved. For further information, please contact Transport Canada at (709) 772-3088.

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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bernard Davis", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

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

Enclosures

c: Jordan Brown, MHA Labrador West