

COR-2022-2530

OCT 19 2022

Reg. No. 2214

Greg Matheson
New Found Gold Corp.
300 Garrett Drive
Gander, NL A1V 0H5
Email: gmatheson@newfoundgold.ca

Dear Greg Matheson:

Re: Appleton Mineral Exploration – Seismic Survey and Trenching (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 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. This includes your commitment to maintain a 300-metre undisturbed naturally vegetated buffer around Gander Lake, a 100-metre naturally vegetated buffer around Gander River and a 30-metre naturally vegetated buffer around all other waterbodies in the Project area to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic species, and their habitat.
- The Water Resources Management Division requires the following;
 - The total area cut for the development of the cut lines cannot exceed 5% of the sub-watershed area within the Protected Public Water Supply Area (PPWSA). A map of this area is attached.
 - Access constructed in the PPWSA for the Project that can be travelled by motor vehicles (excluding ATVs and snowmobiles) must be decommissioned following the completion of the Project. For more information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at (709) 729- 4048.
- 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 the Project, including a copy of all permits, licences, certificates, approvals and other authorizations required for the Project, one year from the date of this release letter and to provide additional updates if required. Please email the Project updates to EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca.

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

The Pollution Prevention Division of this department advises that a contingency plan specific to the proposed undertaking should be developed. Any spill or leak of gasoline or associated product is to be reported immediately by calling the Environmental Emergencies Telephone Line at 1-800-563-9089. For further information, please contact the Pollution Prevention Division at (709) 729-5782.

The Water Resources Management Division of this department advises that you must apply for and obtain permits under the **Water Resources Act** for any work in or within fifteen metres of a body of water (including wetlands); any infilling work within fifteen metres of a body of water (including wetlands); any work within a designated flood risk area; the use of water from any source for any purpose; and for development adjacent to or within a protected public water supply area. In addition, any effluent or runoff leaving the site will be required to conform to the requirements of the Environmental Control Water and Sewage Regulations. For further information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at (709) 729-1646.

The Government Service Centre (GSC) of the Department of Digital Government and Service NL advises that a development permit will be required under the Protected Road Zoning Regulations for any construction within 400 metres of the centre line of the Trans-Canada Highway (including access to the Trans-Canada Highway). A permit is also required in accordance with the **Urban and Rural Planning Act** for any construction/development in a protected area. The GSC further advises that the extent of land clearing and grubbing should be restricted such that naturally vegetated areas between the site and surrounding properties and thoroughfares are maintained. Any existing tree screen concealing the operation from public view is to be maintained. For further information, please contact the GSC at (709) 256-1420.

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 Project 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. It is recommended that an emergency response plan to address any foreseeable mishaps specific to the undertaking is developed. For further information, please contact the Occupational Health and Safety Division at (800) 563-5471.

The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) informs that the proposed Project area overlaps with Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited's (CBPPL) silviculture area, and advises you to consult with CBPPL to mitigate land use conflicts prior to any harvesting within the proposed area. FFA further notes that the proposed Project overlaps with an Agriculture Area of Interest, existing agriculture properties and Joe Batts Pond cottage planning area. Project activities should not interfere with agriculture properties and production, and are not to encroach on existing titles. To ensure public safety, including the safety of residents, cottage owners and other recreational users during exploration activities, safety measures and signage must be in place at trenching sites. For further information, please contact FFA at (709) 637-2535.

The Department of Industry, Energy and Technology advises that permits are required under the **Minerals Act**, for any mineral exploration work. For further information, please contact the Department of Industry, Energy and Technology at (709) 729-5811. The Electricity Division advises you to consult Newfoundland Power and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro throughout the Project life to mitigate conflict with existing or planned electricity assets. For more information, please contact the Electricity Division at (709) 729-3131.

The Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs advises that permits are required from the Town of Appleton for all development within the Municipal Planning Area. A permit is required for development in the Gander River Protected Area under the Gander River Protected Area Regulations. For further information, please contact the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs at (709) 729-3090.

The Provincial Parks Division of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation advises that a Temporary Vehicular Access Permit is required for the commercial use of the Newfoundland and Labrador T'Railway Provincial Park (T'Railway) via motor vehicles such as pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles. The Parks Division further advises that the T'Railway boundary in this area is 7.26 metres (25 feet) perpendicularly distant and running parallel on each side of the centerline of the old railway line, for a total right of way of 15.24 metres (50 feet). A further 15.24 metre undisturbed buffer must be maintained between any buildings and the T'Railway boundary. For further information, please contact the Provincial Parks Division at (709) 637-2411.

The Tourism Product Development Division of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation notes that this undertaking is located within the same area as New Found Gold Corp.'s previous environmental assessment registration #2106, and advises you to

continue to consult with Outfitters in the area to mitigate the potential for conflict. For further information, please contact the Tourism Product Development Division at (709) 729-4518.

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (TI) advises you to obtain a Permit to Work within the Department's Right of Way for any work along the TCH that is located within 30 metres of the centerline. Permits must be obtained from the Lewisporte Depot before any work commences. For further information, please contact the Lewisporte Depot Supervisor at (709) 535-0110. TI further advises that no work or occupations can be permitted on any property or near any infrastructure owned by TI without prior approval from the Deputy Minister. For more information, please contact TI at (709) 729-5399.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) recommends that you prepare the following plans:

- A Management Plan that includes appropriate preventative measures to minimize the risk of impacts on migratory birds;
- An Oil Spill Prevention and Response Plan; and
- A Contingency Plan that considers potential accidents and malfunctions for site-specific activities.

ECCC further advises that you avoid scheduling high disturbance activities, such as vegetation clearing, during the regional nesting period for migratory birds. The breeding season for most birds within the Project area occurs between April 15 and August 15. The Canadian Wildlife Service of the ECCC requests that species-at-risk sightings be reported to ec.scfatldonneesei-cwsatliadata.ec@ec.ac.ca. For further information, please contact the Canadian Wildlife Service at (709) 777-4221.

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.

Health Canada advises that you should consider preparing a response plan in the event of an accident or malfunction with the potential to impact drinking water and/or recreational water quality and country foods. Response plans should include a spill response kit, adequate spill response training, and a communication plan to notify all recreational water and drinking water users and/or consumers of country foods in the impacted areas as

well as all relevant authorities. For further information, please contact Health Canada at (902) 237-7478.

Transport Canada notes that, if culverts and water crossings are required, you are to review the [Navigation Protection Program](#) and self-assess to determine your obligation under the **Canadian Navigable Waters Act**. For more information, please visit <https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/canadian-navigable-waters-act.html>.

Although the undertaking as proposed is released from further environmental assessment, it is still subject to other legislative requirements. You shall 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 decision outlined herein 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 email 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 email joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Bernard Davis", written over a circular stamp.

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

Enclosures

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

Map of Gander Lake PPWSA and Sub-Basin Boundary

