

JUN 22 2023

COR-2023-1962

Reg. # 2242

Jeff Swinoga  
Exploits Discovery Corp.  
2 Toronto St. Suite 206  
Toronto, ON M5C 2B5  
Email: [jeffswinoga@exploits.gold](mailto:jeffswinoga@exploits.gold)

Dear Jeff Swinoga:

**RE: NW Gander Area Bullseye Mineral Exploration (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 is **released** from further environmental assessment subject to the following conditions:

- You must 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:
  - A minimum 30-metre undisturbed riparian buffer must be maintained from the high water mark of all wetlands and waterbodies within and adjacent to the Project that are identified on either the 1:50,000 scale National Topographic System maps, or the topographic mapping layer shown in the Provincial Land Use atlas, to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic species and their habitats.
  - Vegetation clearing is not to occur within 800 metres of a bald eagle or osprey nest during the nesting season (March 15 to July 31) and within 200 metres during the remainder of the year. The 200-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. For further information, please contact the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture at (709) 637-2353.
- 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 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](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca).

The reviewing federal and provincial government departments and agencies have provided advice, which is attached for your reference.

Although the undertaking as proposed is released from further environmental assessment, it is still subject to other 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, my decision 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](mailto: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](mailto:joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca)

Sincerely,

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

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

Attachments

Cc: Hon. Dr. John Haggie, MHA – Gander

## Attachment A

Federal and Provincial government departments and agencies provide the following advice:

The Climate Change Branch of the Department of Environment and Climate Change advises that clearing trees and brush can contribute to climate change. Any heavy-duty equipment used in the construction phase of the 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 Pollution Prevention Division of the Department of Environment and Climate Change advises that burial or incineration of petroleum products or waste materials, including spill response materials, is not permitted. Any spilled free product or used spill response materials would need to be recovered for treatment or disposal at an approved waste management facility with prior approval from the Department of Digital Government and Service NL. The Pollution Prevention Division advises you to consider developing a contingency plan specific to the proposed undertaking to enable a quick and effective response to a spill event. The Pollution Prevention Division recommends that you prepare a waste management plan for the Project. For further information, please contact the Pollution Prevention Division at (709) 729-5782.

The Water Resources Management Division of the Department of Environment and Climate Change advises that the Project is outside of the Gander Lake Protected Public Water Supply Area (PPWSA), however, if there is any change in the proposed location, any development activity within the PPWSA would require a permit under Section 39 of the **Water Resources Act**. Any effluent or runoff leaving the site is required to conform to the requirements of the Environmental Control Water and Sewage Regulations, 2003. For further information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at (709) 729-1646.

The Government Service Centre of the Department of Digital Government and Service NL 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, and any tree screen concealing the operation from public view is to be maintained. The Government Service Centre further advises that a development permit will be required from Digital Government & Service NL in accordance with the **Urban and Rural Planning Act** for any construction/development within a protected area. For further information, please contact the Government Service Centre at (709) 256-1420.

The Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Department of Digital Government and Service NL advises that generally, you must ensure that activities 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 the legislation. For further information, please contact the Occupational Health and Safety Division at 1 (800) 563-5471.

The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture advises that two crown titles have been issued in the project area: Licence to Occupy # 108271 and Grant # 19725 (Volume 106 Folio 89) which can be seen at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/landuseatlas/details/?extent=-6107396.3967%2C6276407.305%2C-6098223.9533%2C6280998.304%2C102100>.

Permission must be obtained from these title holders prior to work commencing within these properties. For further information, please contact the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture at (709) 637-2353.

The Department of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills advises developing a hiring strategy that incorporates principles of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The Department of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills notes that it delivers two provincial immigration programs to help employers recruit international workers for long-term employment in the province. For further information, please contact the Department of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills at (709) 729-2480.

The Department of Industry, Energy and Technology advises that a new exploration approval is needed to amend the existing exploration approval (E220602). The Department of Industry, Energy and Technology further advises that the Mineral Regulations and the standard conditions of an exploration approval require that all exploration sites, including drill sites and access trails, that experience a ground disturbance or excavation in the course of exploration activities are to be fully rehabilitated when no longer needed for exploration purposes. For further information, please contact the Department of Industry, Energy and Technology at (709) 729-3131.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) recommends that you develop and implement a management plan that includes appropriate preventative measures to minimize the risk of impacts on migratory birds. ECCC recommends that you develop a contingency plan that considers potential accidents and malfunctions. ECCC advises that in order to avoid nest destruction and to accommodate the breeding season of migratory birds, operations should consider nesting locations between April 15 and August 15 in this region. The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) of ECCC advises that any species at risk sightings be reported to CWS at [ec.scfatldonneesei-cwsatliadata.ec@ec.gc.ca](mailto:ec.scfatldonneesei-cwsatliadata.ec@ec.gc.ca). For further information, please contact the CWS at (709) 777-4221.