

SEP 07 2023

COR-2023-2932

EA Reg. #2255

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure
Attn: Clifford Smith
5th Floor, Confederation Building (West Block)
St. John's NL A1B 4J6
Email: cliffordsmith@gov.nl.ca

Dear Clifford Smith:

Re: Stephenville Crossing - Bridge Removal (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:
 - 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 sites must be reported to the Wildlife Division.
 - The Project area falls within the **Species at Risk Act** critical habitat for the Piping Plover. On-site activities that may disturb the Piping Plover (such as use of heavy machinery) must not occur between March 15 - November 15, which covers the breeding and migration periods for the Piping Plover and other shorebird species.
 - The registration document indicates that you will require the contractor(s) to submit a Contractor Environmental Mitigation Plan to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure for approval. FFA requires that the Contractor Environmental Mitigation Plan must also be submitted to its Wildlife Division for approval, prior to the start of Project construction. For further information, please

contact the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture at (709) 637-2353.

- You must 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 must 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.

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 must 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.

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,



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

Enclosures

Cc. Scott Reid, MHA District of St. George's - Humber