



Distribution Line BVS-04 – Pinchgut Lake to Georges Lake Single-Phase to Three-Phase Upgrade

Environmental Assessment Registration

Pursuant to the Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Protection Act

Submitted by:

NL Power Inc.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Newfoundland Power (NL Power) is proposing to rebuild a section of their BVS-04 feeder (the Project, BVS-04, or the Undertaking) that runs between Pinchgut Lake and George's Lake in Western Newfoundland. This section of the BVS-04 distribution line currently exceeds standards for maximum current on a single-phase distribution line and must be rebuilt to three phase standards.

The upgrade distributes power to developments in the area of Gallants, George's Lake, Pinchgut Lake, as well as the Western Memorial Hospital and housing in the vicinity of MacPherson Avenue in Corner Brook.

The section of BVS-04 identified for replacement and upgrading begins at the Stagg Lake Provincial Park Access Road near Pinchgut Lake and follows alongside the Trans-Canada Highway for 11km, ending at a fork in Beaver Pond Road near George's Lake. The distribution line RoW follows the Trans-Canada Highway, maintaining roadside access for the majority of the 11km. The project crosses or passes within 200m buffer of a watercourse that is a scheduled salmon river under the Fisheries Act. On assessment of the sources of pollution and implementation of various mitigation measures, the Project is not expected to have any significant impacts on key environmental features.

The project will be completed over the course of one construction season. Vegetation clearing will precede construction, followed by decommissioning.

The Project represents an undertaking requiring registration under the Environmental Assessment (EA) Regulations of the NL Environmental Protection Act (NL EPA) since it "will occur within 200 m of the high-water mark of a river that is a scheduled salmon river under the Fisheries Act (Canada)". This Registration document is being submitted to the EA Division of the Department of Environment and Climate Change (NL ECC) for review.

Construction activities will be conducted in accordance with a project specific Environmental Protection Plan (EPP). The EPP will include erosion and sediment control plans (ESCP), as well as a Spill Contingency Plan. Construction will adhere to best management practices and mitigation measures presented in these Plans, as well as applicable regulatory requirements. Operations will abide by NL Power's existing standard operating procedures.

The project intersects the range of fauna and flora species protected by the Newfoundland and Labrador's Endangered Species Act (NLESA), the Canadian Species at Risk Act (SARA), and listed by COSEWIC. Measures will be taken to mitigate interference of the project with protected species.

NL Power is committed to continuing to supply reliable services to customers in the region through the reconstruction of a section of the BVS-04 feeder in a manner which meets regulatory requirements and minimizes adverse effects on the surrounding environment.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACCDC	Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre
CCA	Chromated Copper Arsenate
COSEWIC	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife Species in Canada
EPP	Environmental Protection Plan
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
EA	Environmental Assessment
ESCP	Erosion and Sediment Control Plans
ESC	Erosion and Sediment Control
km	Kilometre
kV	KiloVolt
m	Meter
MBCA	Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994
NL	Newfoundland and Labrador
NL ECC	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change
NLESA	Newfoundland and Labrador Endangered Species Act
NL FFA	Newfoundland Department of Fisheries Forestry and Agriculture
NL Power	NL Power
PCP	Pentachlorophenol
PMRA	Pest Management Regulatory Agency
RoW	Right of Way
SARA	Species at Risk Act
SOCC	Species of Conservation Concern

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 NAME OF UNDERTAKING

Pinchgut Lake to George’s Lake (BVS-04) Single Phase to Three-Phase Distribution Line Upgrade (the Project, the Undertaking)

1.3 PROPONENT INFORMATION

NL Power operates an integrated electricity generation, transmission, and distribution system throughout the island portion of Newfoundland and Labrador. As the primary distributor of electricity on the island, we operate 11,500 km of transmission and distribution lines on the island, providing service to over 274,000 customers.

Table 1 Proponent and consultant information

PROponent	
Name	NL Power Inc A Fortis Company
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CEO	Gary Murray, President and CEO
Signature	
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1.2 PROJECT OVERVIEW

NL Power (the Proponent) proposes to upgrade a portion of the BVS-04 feeder (the Project, BVS-04, or the Undertaking) which distributes power to developments in the area of Gallants, George's Lake, Pinchgut Lake, as well as the Western Memorial Hospital and housing in the vicinity of MacPherson Avenue in Corner Brook. The section of BVS-04 identified for replacement and upgrading begins at the Stagg Lake Provincial Park Access Road, near Pinchgut Lake, and continues for 11km to a fork in Beaver Pond Rd, near George's Lake. From the endpoint point near George's lake onward, the existing single-phase primary taps will remain. The section to be rebuilt impacts supply in the George's Lake, Pinchgut Lake, and Gallants areas. Pending approvals, this section of BVS-04 is proposed to be rebuilt over the course of one year starting in 2024.

From the Bayview and Massey Drive substations where the BVS-04 feeder originates to the point at which the project begins, the majority of distribution lines are three phase with an operating voltage of 12.47kV or 24.94kV. This section of BVS-04 is currently 14.4kV Aluminum Alloy Steel Conductor single phase distribution line. This project will upgrade an additional 11km section of the feeder to three-phase in order to meet the Company's maximum current standards.

This section of BVS-04 currently lies within a 5m right of way (RoW). The new distribution line is planned to be built in a new RoW of equivalent width. The new RoW will be located adjacent to the current right of way as outlined in this document. Following the project, any areas of the previous RoW that were not rebuilt will be allowed to revegetate.

The line will be composed of single pole wooden structures with standoff construction armless braces. Roughly 150 poles will be placed in the construction of this. The exact number of poles and span length between poles is determined during the engineering design process, and will vary based on topography. This line runs near a scheduled salmon river for roughly 9km, at several instances coming within the 200m buffer required around scheduled salmon rivers with possible vegetation clearing being required in some of these areas.

The replacement of this line is necessary based on exceedance of distribution standards leading to risk of failure, and the associated customer impact in the event of a failure. Exceeding NL Power's planning criteria for maximum current on a single-phase distribution line could compromise safety and service reliability in the area, for which reasons upgrading this section of the distribution line is necessary. The operating conditions of this section condition exposes customers in the area of Gallants, George's Lake, Pinchgut Lake and nearby rural areas to potential for more frequent and extended unplanned outages. Additionally, a line in this condition poses environmental and safety risks such as forest fire, spillage of deleterious material, or electrical hazards.

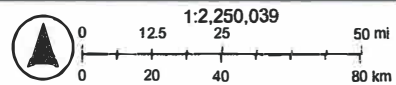
The project requires registration under the following sections of the EA Regulations, 2003:

- Section 28: The distribution line crosses several watercourses that are scheduled salmon rivers under the *Fisheries Act* that cannot be spanned outside of their 200m buffer.

BVS-04 Distribution Line Upgrade Project



12/13/2023



Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, NRCAN, Parks Canada, Sources: NRCAN, Esri Canada, and Canadian Community Maps contributors.

K. Fidler

Figure 1 Project Location

1.4 PURPOSE/NEED/RATIONALE FOR THE PROJECT

The replacement of this section of the BVS-04 distribution line is necessary based on capacity and load. Due to increased demand in the George's Lake area since the construction of this distribution line, the identified section of the feeder currently operates at approximately 125 amps, which exceeds the company's planning criteria for maximum current on a single-phase distribution line. In order to continue the provision of safe and reliable service to customers in the area, upgrading this section of the distribution line is necessary.

The replacement of this line is necessary based on exceedance of distribution standards leading to risk of failure, and the associated customer impact in the event of a failure. Exceeding NL Power's planning criteria for maximum current on a single-phase distribution line could compromise safety and service reliability in the area, for which reasons upgrading this section of the distribution line is necessary. The operating conditions of this section condition exposes customers in the area of Gallants, George's Lake, Pinchgut Lake and nearby rural areas to potential for more frequent and extended unplanned outages. Additionally, a line in this condition poses environmental and safety risks such as forest fire, spillage of deleterious material, or electrical hazards.

Customers served by this line in the region of Pinchgut Lake, George's Lake and Gallants have been subject to 253 outages over the course of three years from 2019-2022. Approximately 70 of these outages could be associated with exceeding recommended current for a single-phase distribution line.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The section of BVS-04 identified for replacement and upgrading begins at the Stagg Lake Provincial Park Access Road, near Pinchgut Lake, and continues for 11km to a fork in Beaver Pond Rd, near George's Lake (Appendix A). The new distribution line will be constructed in a new adjacent RoW that follows existing features where possible.

2.2 PHYSICAL FEATURES

2.2.1 Key Environmental Features

Newfoundland is part of the Boreal Shield Ecozone which covers much of Canada. Boreal forests are characterized by stands of Black spruce (*Picea mariana*), White spruce (*Picea glauca*), Jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*), and Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) mixed with bogs and other wetlands. This region is known to support occurrences of Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*). As a result of glacial scouring, areas of bare rocky outcrops support lichen and low shrubs. The Project is located within the Newfoundland Ecoprovince of the Boreal Shield Ecozone. Its forests are dominated by closed, intermediate to low stands of Balsam fir and Black spruce on steep, moist, upland slopes. White birch (*Betula papyrifera*), Aspen (*Populus sp.*), and Black spruce are typical of disturbed sites and exposed nutrient poor sites are characterized by Black spruce, ericaceous shrubs, such as Lambkill (*Kalmia angustifolia*), Labrador tea (*Rhododendron groenlandicum*), and lichens. Open stands of dwarfed Black spruce and Eastern larch (*Larix laricina*) with ericaceous shrubs are found on raised dome bogs.

The project site is located within the Corner Brook sub region of the Western Newfoundland Ecoregion. Near Mountain slopes found in the area of this project, commonly encountered rock types include, gneiss, granite, sandstone and quartz, with a shallow sandy loam till. The majority of the project RoW occurs in the mid slope position, where forest types are mainly characterized by Hylocomium-Balsam Fir. Soils are the orthic or gleyed podzolic type with seepage over bedrock, which promotes forest growth and successful regeneration after cutting (Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, 2020).

The Project primarily follows the developed highway right of way, crossing watercourses and wetlands. The landscape in the Project area is punctuated by numerous ponds and lakes. The Project intersects multiple waterbodies associated with Pinchgut Brook as well as numerous river crossings (section 2.2.1.1).

Given the location of this project inside the highway RoW, access points will be primarily roadside. Due to the accessibility from each side of streams no fording will be required.

2.2.1.1 Scheduled Waters Within 200 meters of Project Site

The proposed Project crosses or passes within 200 m of the following scheduled salmon bearing rivers (Schedule 1, Newfoundland and Labrador Fishery Regulations SOR178-443) at 12 locations (Appendix B):

- Pinchgut Brook (1 crossing location and 7 tributary crossings)
- Georges Lake (1 tributary crossing and approximately 450 m within 15m)

Pinchgut Brook is a class 2 river which runs from Pinchgut Lake to George's Lake and is within Salmon Fishing Area (SFA) 13. Pinchgut Brook is a part of the Harry's River watercourse listed on the Newfoundland and Labrador Anglers Guide. The Project right of way lies largely within this buffer zone with the exception of a 1.4 km section near the outflow of Pinchgut Lake, and a 2.5 km section near Blue Pond. The Harry's River fishway recorded a total of 987 salmon in 2022, and most recently recorded a total of 333 in 2023 (DFO, 2023).

Pinchgut Brook is the outlet of the Pinchgut Lake hydrometric watershed. Headwaters include waterbodies between Normans Pond, Whale Back Pond, Abel Pond, Island Pond, Howes Pond, and on the southern boundary of the watershed, Middle Pond, Yvonne Pond and Third Pond. Named tributaries flowing directly into waterbodies adjacent to the Project include Stag Hill Brook, Meadows Brook, Camp Eleven Brook, and Pinchgut Lake.

Pinchgut Brook is the drainage point that empties the Pinchgut lake watershed into the Harrys River watershed. Pinchgut Brook flows into George's Lake. George's Lake is amongst the headwaters of this hydrometric watershed, headwaters of Georges lake originate from the Long Range Mountains near Stag Lake Provincial Park, including Southwest Pond, Crooked Pond, and Stag Lake. Direct tributaries of George's lake include the outflow streams of Rocky Pond, Little St. George Pond, Old Mans Pond, Dozer

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Pond, and Beaver Pond, as well as Spruce Brook, Camp 8 Brook, and Beaver Brook. The outlet of George's Lake is Harry's River.

The majority of the project exists within the 200m buffer zone of the Scheduled Watercourse of Pinchgut Lake, Pinchgut Brook, and Georges Lake, and crosses tributaries of the river at 7 locations. The project comes within 15m of Georges Lake for approximately 450m just before Beaver Pond Road, and crosses a tributary stream of Georges Lake at 1 location.

Installation of conductor will be completed using a method in which no disturbances to waterbodies are anticipated. If necessary, watercourses associated with scheduled salmon bearing rivers and their listed tributaries may be forded. If fording is required, all commissioning and/or decommissioning activities shall adhere to measures and guidelines outlined in the NL Power operating procedure OPR200.07 – Fording of Water Bodies, the project specific EPP, permits issued by NL ECC and DFO, and documents available from NL ECC.

Poles will be installed as far away from high water marks as standards allow. This distance will vary by location.

2.2.1.2 Pine Marten Habitat

Sections of the project occur within an area designated as Pine Marten Habitat. Areas of the project occur within an area designated as a Newfoundland Marten (*Martes americana atrata*) Critical Habitat. Data provided by the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (ACDC) has also confirmed observations of the species within 5km of the project area (see Appendix C). The Newfoundland marten is listed as Threatened under SARA and the NL ESA. A 2022 assessment for status change by COSEWIC has suggested the status of Special Concern. Wildlife Division will ensure compliance with legislative requirements for areas known to have Pine Marten.

The most significant risk to mortality rate associated with the Project is alteration or destruction of marten denning sites during Clearing. Line clearing and construction activities will primarily be outside the natal and maternal denning period (April 1 to June 30), however, activity early in the construction season may overlap with this window. Given the roadside nature of this project and construction adjacent to the existing RoW, adverse impacts to or interference with marten are not expected. As wetlands are identified as a key habitat component for marten, efforts will be made to conserve wetland areas during the Project by operating under the conditions of permits and environmental protection plan. This will further reduce adverse impacts to marten populations due to dependency on wetlands in preferred habitat (Environment Canada, 2013).

See Section 3.2.2 for the fauna Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern Management Plan.

2.3 CONSTRUCTION

Construction of each Phase of the Project will consist of the following three components:

- **Brush clearing:** Brush clearing is planned to begin in the summer of 2024 upon the release of the EA and after ensuring all recommendations from the EA review are met.
- **Construction:** Construction will occur in 2024 following the completion of the brush clearing. Construction will involve the installation of poles and anchors; cribbing; conductor stringing and sagging, as well as the installation of vibration dampers on applicable sections.
- **Dismantling:** Dismantling of the existing section of distribution line will be completed after the new line is constructed and energized. Dismantling and removal of the existing distribution line will involve the dismantling, removal, and disposal of the existing line, including poles, anchors, insulators, guys, conductors, and hardware.

Construction will be completed by both line truck/pickups, tension stringers, excavators, pickup trucks, Nodwell (flatdeck), Nodwell (boom), rock buster, stringing equipment, and muskeg, tractor/trailer/flatbed.

Construction and brush clearing will primarily be completed by contractors, with NL Power crews to assist with distribution crossings and substation connections. A NL Power site supervisor will monitor the site periodically throughout clearing and construction activities.

Materials required for project activities' such as rock or timber cribbing will be sourced from a local licensed Quarry and be free of fines or sediment for water applications. It will be the responsibility of the contractor to ensure all requirements for Quarry use are met.

2.3.1 Access Trails

As this project is near the highway RoW, roadside access is available for the majority of the project. At a point just west of Gull Pond Road (near Pinchgut Lake), the line travels over an approximately 20m ridge at which roadside access is not available. RoW access will be used in areas such as this. Constructing new or upgrading existing access trails is not anticipated.

The types of equipment operating on the RoW for this project mainly include of tracked, slow moving machines, such as excavators, nodwells, argos and muskegs. Due to the short usage window for the RoW by NL Power's construction equipment, significant upgrades to the existing RoW would not be required.

Typical practice for access road upgrading would be to place additional material on the current trails as to provide construction equipment the ability to access the distribution corridor with minimal ground disturbance. Additionally, travelling over bogs or wetland areas would be avoided as much as possible, but if needed, bog mats would be used to help traverse those areas. If required, widening of the trails would be minimized as much as possible, with turn around or laydown areas being located on the ROW to avoid the need to further expand the footprint of existing access trails to allow for two-way traffic.

2.3.2 Potential Sources of Pollution

Potential sources of pollutants into environmental features that may result from construction activities include:

- Sedimentation and siltation from soil disturbance;

- Sedimentation and siltation in small watercourses due to fording;

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- Accidental spills from oil filled electrical equipment during construction and operation;
- Accidental spills from construction equipment;
- Fuel combustion emissions, noise emissions and particulate matter generated by project related vehicles; and
- Disturbance of fauna and flora.

Construction activities will involve brush clearing and soil disturbance within the 200 m buffer of the watercourse during installation of wooden pole structures which may cause sedimentation and siltation into the scheduled salmon rivers, negatively impacting water quality. Accidental release of deleterious substances, including fuel and lubricants, from construction machinery may also negatively impact water quality. To minimize pollution from fuel combustion emissions and particulate matter as well as noise emissions generated by project-related vehicles and equipment will be maintained in good working order and idling will be reduced.

Due to the sensitivity of the watercourses in the vicinity of the Project, there are no in-water works proposed in Scheduled Salmon Rivers. All watercourses intersected by the project are associated with the scheduled salmon river network. Vegetation clearing and construction within 15m of waterbodies may be required. This type of work near waterbodies may result in alteration to the watercourse substrate as well as the release of fine sediments from the substrate and shoreline which may negatively impact water quality. These impacts will be mitigated through measures outlined in a project specific erosion and sediment control plan. The proper permits from NL ECC and DFO will be acquired for work near waterbodies.

Oil filled electrical transformers required for the distribution of electrical service to residences are identified as a potential source of pollution during construction. To reduce the environmental risk of transformer oil spills, new transformers will be filled with a PCB free mineral oil. Spill kits will be readily available on site at all times for response in the event of a spill emergency. The replacement of 6 pole mounted transformers is required during the project. Transformers will be on site at the time of installation and during operation. No oil filled electrical equipment will be stored on site.

Vegetation clearing and construction activities may also disrupt fauna within the vicinity of the distribution line. Disruption may occur from vegetation clearing, as well as the noise and activity associated with construction equipment. NL Power has operating procedures in place to guide employees if wildlife is encountered on the job site. Vegetative management during migratory bird season will be completed in accordance with NL Power's migratory birds operating procedure. Information on migratory bird species present in the project area and activity observations can be found in Section 3.2.2.

NL Power will implement a project specific EPP prior to construction, including an ESCP, wildlife management plan, waste management plan, spill prevention plan, and contingency plan (as necessary). Following the completion of construction activities, the areas adversely affected by this project must be

restored to a state that resembles natural conditions. Additionally, the environmental management measures outlined in Section 2.3.2 will be implemented to minimize the risk of release of sediment.

2.3.3 Environmental Management Measures

Mitigative measures to minimize the environmental effects of the Project include:

- Implementation of the EPP, including the ESCP, spill prevention plan, and contingency plans (as necessary prior to construction);
- ESC structures will be maintained and inspected regularly with particular emphasis before and after forecasted heavy rain events, and with consideration of the timing and types of activities involved;
- Where necessary, ESC measures will remain in place after work is completed until areas have stabilized and natural re-vegetation occurs;
- All overburden will be removed during the excavation phase and will be stored according to provincial regulations and best practice guidelines;
- Exposed soils and stockpiles capable of producing sediment laden-runoff will continue to be stabilized and/or will be covered;
- A complete oil spill clean-up kit must be on the site at all times when gasoline or fuel powered equipment is present;
- Refueling will not be completed within 30 m of environmentally sensitive areas including shorelines, waterbodies and wetlands;
- Disturbed soils will be re-vegetated after construction is completed;
- Stream banks at fording sites that contain loose or erodible material must be adequately stabilized before crossing to minimize any siltation of stream;
- Fording will be carried out during periods of low water levels;
- The natural course of the stream will not be altered during fording;
- Fording site will be located at shallow sections of channels where there are low approach grades and the channel consists of stable substrate; and
- The fording sites will be restored to their original condition once construction is complete.

2.4 OPERATION

The construction of the Project will be constructed with structures and equipment intended for an operating life of 50 years. Work on the Project during operation will consist of emergency repair. Vegetation management below the distribution line will be completed manually, no herbicides will be applied. The line will be inspected annually, with surveying being completed every 5 years.

2.4.1 Climate Change Adaptation Measures in Project Design

This line is designed to CSA standards. The hardening measures incorporated into this project design will reduce the level of impact to distribution line infrastructure under the influence of the changing climate. Distribution line infrastructure will be subject to the projected climate trend of more frequent and intense storms, wind events, flooding, ice loading, as well as precipitation. Without adaptation measures

more frequent maintenance activities would be required, increasing traffic along the RoW as well as access roads. This would attribute to a greater environmental risk. By hardening infrastructure to meet CSA national standards, this risk will be reduced.

2.4.2 Potential Sources of Pollution

Potential sources of pollutants into environmental features that may result from operation of the Project include:

- Sedimentation and siltation from soil disturbance;
- Fuel combustion emissions, particulate matter, and noise emissions generated by maintenance and inspection related vehicles; and
- Accidental spills from construction equipment and oil filled electrical equipment.

Oil filled electrical transformers required for the distribution of electrical service to residences will be the only potential source of pollutants into the environment during operation of the project after construction. To reduce the environmental risk of transformer spills, Pole Mounted Transformers will be stainless steel to prevent rusting and filled with a PCB free mineral oil.

During operations, there will be fewer vehicles and machinery associated with RoW maintenance and line inspection, generating lower noise emissions at infrequent periods.

In the event of emergency repairs to this section of distribution line while in operation, activities may result in sources of pollution similar to construction activities, including sedimentation and siltation from soil disturbance and accidental spills from construction equipment and oil filled electrical equipment. Environmental management measures outlined for construction activities in Section 2.3.2 also apply to operation activities.

2.5 LOCAL RECEPTORS

The Project RoW runs alongside the Trans-Canada Highway, with some deviance from the roadside RoW for geographical reasons. The municipality of Gallants is approximately 10km (as the crow flies) from the endpoint of the project.

Other receptors include Pinchgut Restaurant & Convenience which is a seasonal business, the former Blue Pond Provincial Park and the privately-owned Blue Pond RV Park adjacent to the former provincial park. The project crosses over the Boy Scout Road access road used to reach rural cottage properties and a parcel of land owned by Boy Scouts of Canada. Access to this road may be impacted only during project work in the vicinity of this access road, but will not be impeded. The project is within the Kruger Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd. timber Limits, and intersects land identified as the Fox Pond Silviculture Area as well as another unnamed silviculture area near Georges Lake. Consultation is to be held with the proprietary of each area prior to vegetation clearing within these lands.

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The RoW follows the Trans-Canada Highway through residential and cabin areas in the vicinity of Pinchgut Lake and Georges Lake. Residential and commercial receptors in the area located along the highway in the area shared with the proposed RoW could be subject to short term minor disturbances through the creation of noise and dust from construction equipment. The Project also passes over and/or in proximity to numerous watercourses that are used for recreational purposes, particularly fishing.

Construction activities have the potential to cause minor disturbances to nearby residences and recreational users through the creation of noise and dust from construction equipment, as well as increased traffic on nearby roads. NL Power has operating procedures in place to guide employees in terms of limiting disturbance during vegetation management (OPR 200.05— Vegetation Management) and vehicular disruptions (OPR 112.14 — Traffic Control). In addition, NL Power will minimize the impact of Project activities on local receptors through the implementation of the following mitigation measures:

- Implementing a Project specific EPP, including detailed identification of impacts to receptors and management plans for noise and air quality;
- Construction activities will be completed during regular daylight working hours;
- Vehicular traffic coming to and from the site will kept at a required minimum; Maintain equipment in good working order and properly muffed; and
- Minimize idling of equipment and vehicles.

2.6 OCCUPATIONS

The project has been estimated to require a maximum of 35 crew members working on the project at any given time, including both contractors and NL Power Employees. Construction of the Project will require the following occupations (with NOC code breakdown) from both NL Power and Contractor staff:

Engineering Technicians:

- 22300 Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians
- 22310 Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technologists and Technicians
- 22213 Land Survey Technologists and Technicians

Heavy Equipment Operators:

- 72401 Heavy-Duty Equipment Mechanics
- 73400 Heavy Equipment Operators

Line Workers:

- 72011 Contractors and Supervisors, Electrical Trades and Telecommunications Occupations
- 72203 Electrical Power Line and Cable Workers

Vegetation Management Workers:

- 74205 Public Works Maintenance Equipment Operators and Related Workers

Ground Workers:

- 70010 Construction Managers
- 72021 Contractors and Supervisors, Heavy Construction Equipment Crews
- 75110 Construction Trades Helpers and Laborers
- 75119 Other Trades Helpers and Laborers

Construction, brush clearing, and decommissioning will primarily be completed by contractors, with NL Power crews to assist with distribution crossings and substation connections.

2.0 APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING

Other permits and authorizations are listed in table 2.

Table 2 Permits, authorizations, and regulations potentially applicable to this Project.

Permit/ Regulation	Responsible Authority
Federal	
Compliance pursuant to Migratory Birds Convention Act and Regulations	Environment Canada
Request for Project Review	DFO
Permit for Construction Within Navigable Water	Transport Canada
Permits Authorizing an Activity Affecting Listed Wildlife Species Regulations	SARA
Provincial	
NL ECC Blanket Permit to Alter a Body of Water	Department of Environment and Climate Change
Operating Permit for work during the Forest Fire Season	Department of Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture
Commercial Cutting Permit	Department of Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture
Permit to Alter a Body of Water including Schedule I – Development in a Flood Risk Area and other applicable schedules	Department of Environment and Climate Change
Development Permit under the Protected Road Zoning Regulations	Department of Transportation and Infrastructure
Permit for Work within Department of Transportation & Works Right of Way when the Owner is a Municipality or other Public Agency	Department of Transportation and Infrastructure
Subordinate Quarry Permit pursuant to the Quarry Materials Act	Department of Industry, Energy and Technology
Registration as required in Section 13 of the Storage and Handling of Gasoline and Associated Products Regulations	Department of Environment and Climate Change
Release of the Undertaking under the EA Regulations	Department of Environment and Climate Change
Crown Lands Application for a New Right of Way	Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Municipal	
Approval for Waste Disposal pursuant to the Urban and Rural Planning Act	Municipality

3.1 TREATED POLES IN SENSITIVE HABITATS

The type of poles used within sensitive habitats will adhere to NL Power’s OPR 200.03 Chemically Treated Poles and Timbers. When working within environmentally sensitive areas permits shall be obtained from NL ECC (see Table3).

Table 3 Restrictions for Sensitive Sites

Type of Treated Wood	Surface Well	Drilled Artesian Well	Rivers, Ponds, Brooks, Lakes and Streams (Outside PPWSA)
PCP	15m	10m	15m Subject to Regulatory Approval – see notes below
CCA	5m	3m	5m Subject to Regulatory Approval – see notes below

The minimum distances in Table 3 have been established to address concerns as they relate to contamination of water due to the leaching of preservatives. In cases where it is desirable to install closer than 15 meters of a river, pond, brook, lake, stream or ocean, appropriate approvals must be obtained from the regulatory bodies in advance of the work proceeding.

Pentachlorophenol poles may be used in appropriate locations as permitted under the Electricity Canada Pentachlorophenol Treated Poles & Cross Arms label approved by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA).

3.1.1 Protected Public Water Supply Areas

The project is not in proximity to a Protected Public Water Supply Area.

3.2 SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN

The project intersects the range of numerous fauna and flora species that are rare or protected by the Newfoundland and Labrador Endangered Species Act (NLESA), Canada's Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA), and/or Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA). These species are listed in Table 4. Measures will be taken to mitigate interference of the project with protected species.

A data study from ACCDC identified 23 rare plant records and 120 rare animal records within 5km of the Project. One of these plant records is the provincially Threatened species, the Tradescant Aster. The remaining 22 rare plant records are not listed on the NLESA or federal COSEWIC lists, and outside of Newfoundland & Labrador, only Auricled Twayblade is considered globally rare. Rare fauna data included 1 Banded Killifish record 1 Red Crossbill record, 115 Newfoundland Marten records, 1 Little Brown Bat record, and 1 Gray-cheeked Thrush record. The remaining rare animal records are for species which are not listed, but are considered rare on the Island of Newfoundland. ACCDC Expert Opinion Maps suggest that Rusty Blackbirds are possible, while Boreal Felt Lichen is possible, but unlikely. See section 3.2.2 for further information on migratory bird species and activity in the Project area.

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Table 4 Rare species and species at risk potentially located near the Project.

Species	Scientific Name	Occurrence	Status	Source(s)
Flora				
Auricled Twayblade	<i>Neottia auriculata</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)
Black Ash	<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>	Unknown	Threatened (COSEWIC)	(GC, 2023)
Blue Felt Lichen	<i>Degelia plumbea</i>	Possible	Special Concern (COSEWIC)	(GC, 2023)
Boreal Bedstraw	<i>Galium kamtschaticum</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)
Boreal Felt Lichen	<i>Erioderma pedicellatum</i>	Unlikely	Vulnerable (NLESA) Endangered (COSEWIC)	(ACCDC, 2023) (GC, 2023)
Braun's Holly-Fern	<i>Polystichum braunii</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)
Clasping-Leaf Dogbane	<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)
Common Water-Milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum sibiricum</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)
Creeping Rush	<i>Juncus subtilis</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)
Dudley's Rush	<i>Juncus dudleyi</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)
Field Basil	<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)
Fox Sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)

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Fries' Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton friesii</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)
Golden Groundsel	<i>Packera aurea</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)
Great-Spurred Violet	<i>Viola selkirkii</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)
Marsh Fern	<i>Thelypteris palustris var. pubescens</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)
Self-Heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)
Slender Spike-Rush	<i>Eleocharis nitida</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)
Smooth Woodsia	<i>Woodsia glabella</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)
Tradescant Aster	<i>Symphytotrichum tradescantii</i>	Confirmed	Threatened (NLESA)	(ACCDC, 2023)
Trailing Arbutus	<i>Epigaea repens</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)
Whorled Water-Milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACCDC, 2023)
Fauna				
Banded Killifish	<i>Fundulus diaphanus</i>	Confirmed	Vulnerable (NLESA) Special Concern (COSEWIC)	(ACCDC, 2023)
Barrow's Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>	Possible	Vulnerable (NLESA) Special Concern (COSEWIC)	(NL FFA, 2023) (GC, 2023)
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Possible	Vulnerable (NLESA) Special Concern (COSEWIC)	(NL FFA, 2023) (GC, 2023)

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Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Unlikely	Threatened (NLESA) Threatened (COSEWIC)	(NL FFA, 2023) (GC, 2023)
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Unlikely	Threatened (NLESA) Special concern (COSEWIC)	(NL FFA, 2023) (GC, 2023)
Eskimo Curlew	<i>Numenius borealis</i>	Possible	Endangered (NLESA) Endangered (COSEWIC)	(NL FFA, 2023) (GC, 2023)
Gray-cheeked Thrush	<i>Catharus minimus</i>	Confirmed	Threatened (NLESA) Mid-priority Candidate (COSEWIC)	(ACDC, 2023) (GC, 2023)
Gray Comma	<i>Polygonia progne</i>	Confirmed	Not Listed	(ACDC, 2023)
Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	Possible	Vulnerable (NLESA) Special concern (COSEWIC)	(NL FFA, 2023) (GC, 2023)
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Possible	Endangered (NLESA, COSEWIC)	(NL FFA, 2023) (GC, 2023)
Little Brown Myotis	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Confirmed	Endangered (NLESA, COSEWIC)	(ACDC, 2023) (GC, 2023)
Newfoundland Marten	<i>Martes americana</i>	Confirmed	Threatened (NLESA) Special Concern (COSEWIC)	(ACDC, 2023) (GC, 2023)
Northern Myotis	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Possible	Endangered (COSEWIC)	(GC, 2023)
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Possible	Threatened (NLESA) Special concern (COSEWIC)	(NL FFA, 2023) (GC, 2023)
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus tundrius/anatum</i>	Unlikely	Vulnerable (NLESA) Not Active (COSEWIC)	(NL FFA, 2023) (GC, 2023)
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus melodus</i>	Possible	Endangered (NLESA, COSEWIC)	(NL FFA, 2023) (GC, 2023)

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Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra percna</i>	Possible	Endangered (NLESA) Threatened (COSEWIC)	(NL FFA, 2023) (GC, 2023)
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	Possible	Endangered (NLESA, COSEWIC)	(NL FFA, 2023) (GC, 2023)
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Possible	Special Concern (COSEWIC) Vulnerable (NLESA)	(ACCDC, 2023) (NL FFA, 2023)
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Possible	Vulnerable (NLESA) Threatened (COSEWIC)	(NL FFA, 2023) (GC, 2023)
Tri-colored Bat	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Possible	Endangered (COSEWIC)	(GC, 2023)
Aquatic Species				
American Eel	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	Possible	Vulnerable (NLESA) Under assessment	(NL FFA, 2023) (GC, 2023)
Banded Killifish	<i>Fundulus diaphanus</i>	Possible	Vulnerable (NLESA) Special Concern (COSEWIC)	(NL FFA, 2023) (GC, 2023)

3.2.1 Caribou

Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) on the Island are of conservation concern to the Wildlife Division. The Newfoundland Population of Woodland Caribou is not currently listed under SAR or the NL ESA. However, the status of Newfoundland caribou has been identified as Special Concern by COSEWIC, which is a precursor to potential listing under SARA. Additionally, the Government of NL has developed a Caribou Strategy to address caribou population declines. Encounters with this species will be handled with caution as per management strategies outlined in section 3.2.2 and measures of impact mitigation will be implemented to minimize any potential impact on the species as a result of the undertaking.

This project is not within a core caribou habitat zone; however, it is near the La Poile and Blow Me Down Mountains Caribou Management Areas. As Caribou are a mobile species and there is still potential that caribou will be encountered. Industrial activity introduces potential for impacts to change in habitat including direct and/or indirect loss or alteration of habitat arising from vegetation clearing and/or sensory disturbance. Change in movement paths or patterns can also arise from change in habitat and/or sensory disturbance. Change in mortality risk can be directly impacted as a result of vegetation clearing vehicular collisions, and indirectly impacted through increased predation (Weir, Morrison, Luther, & Mahoney, 2014). This is not expected to have a significant impact on island herds as the project does not occur within a core habitat zone.

3.2.2 Management of Species at Risk

The presence of species at risk will be prioritized during vegetation management and construction. Contractors, staff, and environmental consultants will be trained in relevant species at risk and the indicators of their presence, including both flora and fauna species.

In addition to the standard mitigation measures to be implemented for Project construction, operations and decommissioning, the following specific measures will be implemented to avoid or reduce adverse effects on fauna Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern Populations. Measures identified in this section pertain to fauna Species at Risk (SAR) or Species of Conservation Concern (SOCC), namely avian species at risk, bats, caribou, and newfoundland marten.

- Snow clearing is required during decommissioning, snowbanks will be less than 1m tall to facilitate crossings by caribou and other wildlife, and breaks in snowbanks will be provided at approximately 200m intervals, to the extent practicable to provide wildlife crossing opportunities;
- Project vehicles will be required to adhere to posted speed limits;
- To reduce the risk of wildlife-vehicle collisions, if it is safe to do so speeds will be reduced and the vehicle stopped (if necessary) to allow wildlife to leave the road;
- Wildlife-vehicle collisions, near misses, or observations of human-mediated mortality will be reported to the NL Power Environment Department and the NL Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture – Wildlife Division;
- Sightings shall be reported to the NL Power Environment Department, who will relay the information to the NL Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture – Wildlife Division;

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- The Environment manager will be notified if SAR or SOCC, namely bats, marten and/or caribou, are observed within 500m of Project activities to determine if the activity should be reduced or delayed (in consultation with the NL Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture -Wildlife Division will be reduced or delayed when SAR or SOCC are observed within 500 meters of project activity, as applicable);
- Personal pets (domestic or wild) will be prohibited on site during construction;
- Measurements shall be taken to avoid inadvertent feeding of wildlife;
- Project contractors and staff will be prohibited from fishing, hunting, or otherwise interacting (e.g. harassment, feeding) with wildlife at the site while working on the Project.
- The discovery of roosts, hibernacula, nests, holes or dens by on-site personnel will be reported to the Environment Manager and appropriate action or follow-up will be guided by consultation with a qualified biologist and/or federal or provincial regulators.
- During Operation, travel for inspection and maintenance of the transmission line will be restricted to the RoW and existing access routes.
- Hunting or harassment of SAR and other wildlife by on-site Project personnel will be prohibited.
- Work activities will be undertaken in a manner that does not deliberately harass wildlife.

3.0 SCHEDULE

The proposed schedule for the Project is outlined in Table 5.

Table 5 Proposed schedule for the project broken down by phase.

Project Component		Proposed Date
Registration of EA		Winter 2024
Engineering & Design		Winter 2024
Construction & Decommissioning	Brush Clearing	Summer 2024
	Construction	Summer/Fall 2024
	Decommissioning	Fall 2024

5.0 EXTERNAL FUNDING

External funding is not required for this project.

6.0 REFERENCES

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- DFO. (2023, September 12). *Atlantic Salmon Fishway Counts*. Retrieved from Fisheries and Oceans Canada: <https://www.nfl.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/en/atlantic-salmon-fishway-counts>
- Environment Canada. (2013). Recovery Strategy for the American Marten (*Martes americana atrata*), Newfoundland population, in Canada. In *Species at Risk Act Recovery Strategy Series*. Ottawa: Environment Canada.
- GC. (2023, 12 12). *Species search*. Retrieved from Species at Risk Public Registry: <https://species-registry.canada.ca/index-en.html#/documents?documentTypeId=18&sortBy=documentTypeSort&sortDirection=asc&pageSize=10>
- Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. (2020). *Western Newfoundland Regions - Corner Brook Subregion*. Retrieved from Newfoundland Ecoregions: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3c85151fec1a452ca1bfed551ecbc4aa>
- NL FFA. (2023, 12 19). *Species at Risk*. Retrieved from Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/wildlife/endangeredspecies/>
- Weir, J. N., Morrison, S. F., Luther, J. G., & Mahoney, S. P. (2014). Caribou Data Synthesis – Progress Report #2 Status of the Newfoundland population of woodland caribou. In *Technical Bulletin No. 008 Sustainable Development and Strategic Science*. St. John's: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.



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Appendices

APPENDIX A
Proposed RoW Drawings

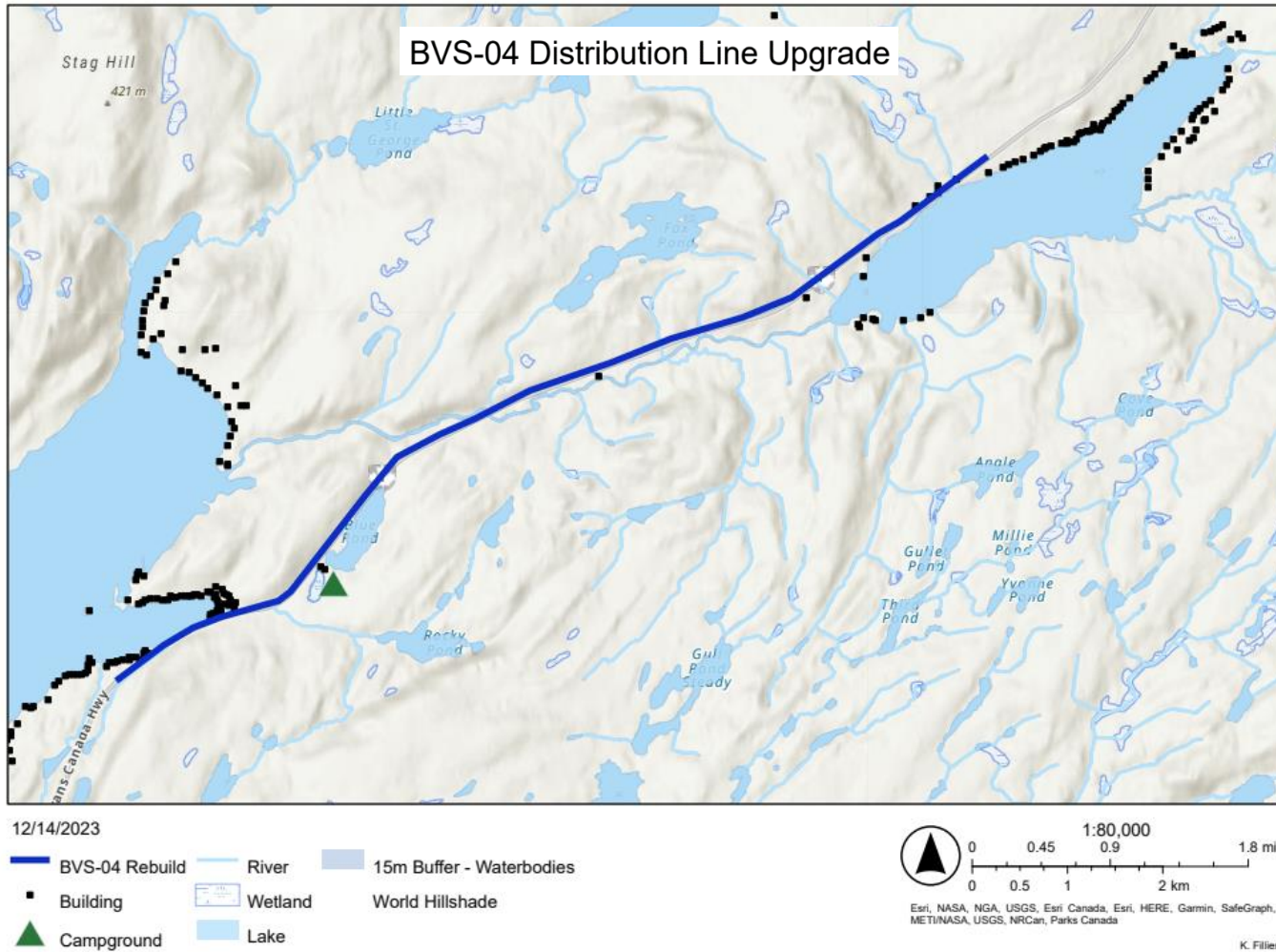


Figure A-1 Full Extend Map of project RoW

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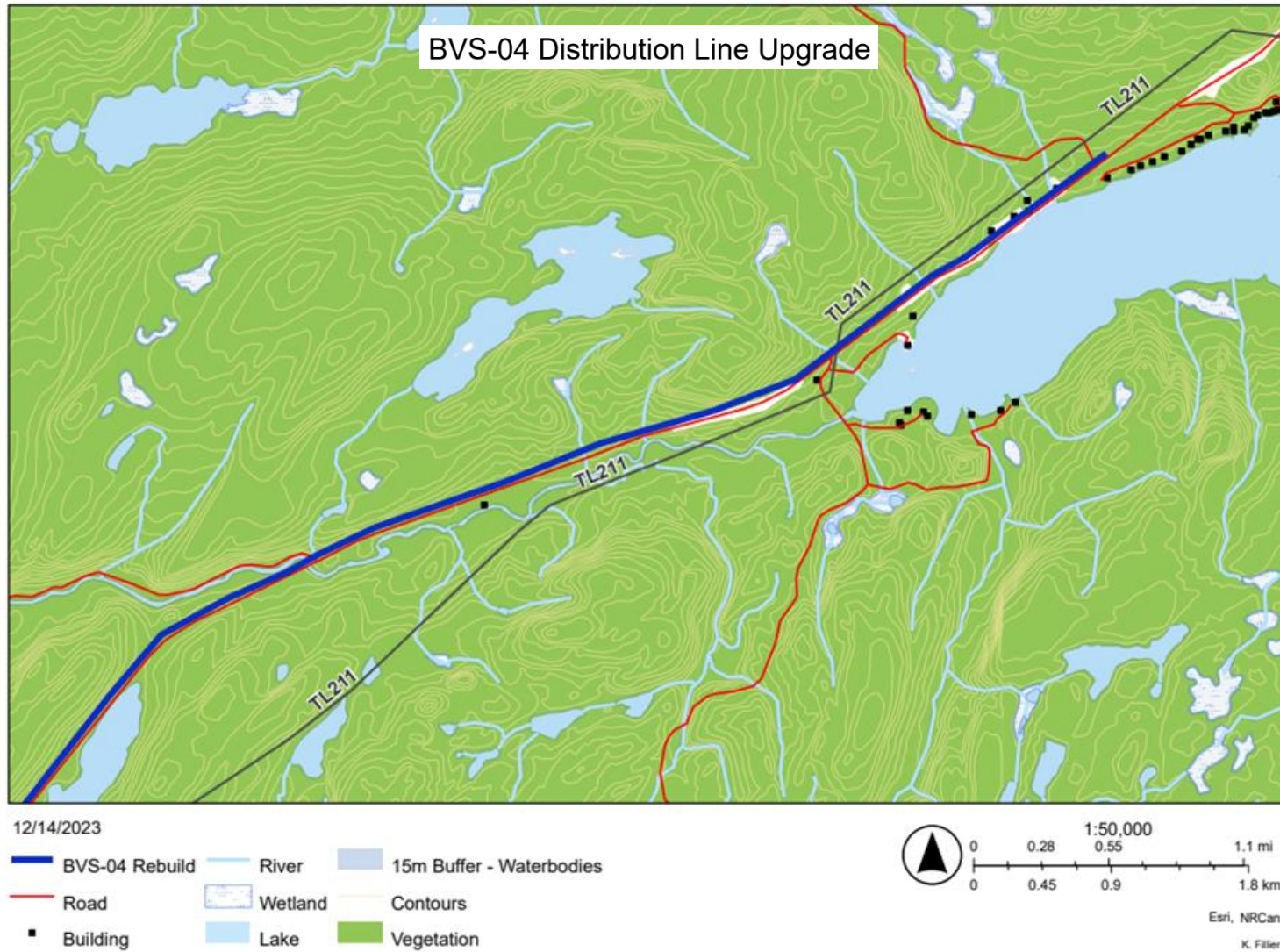
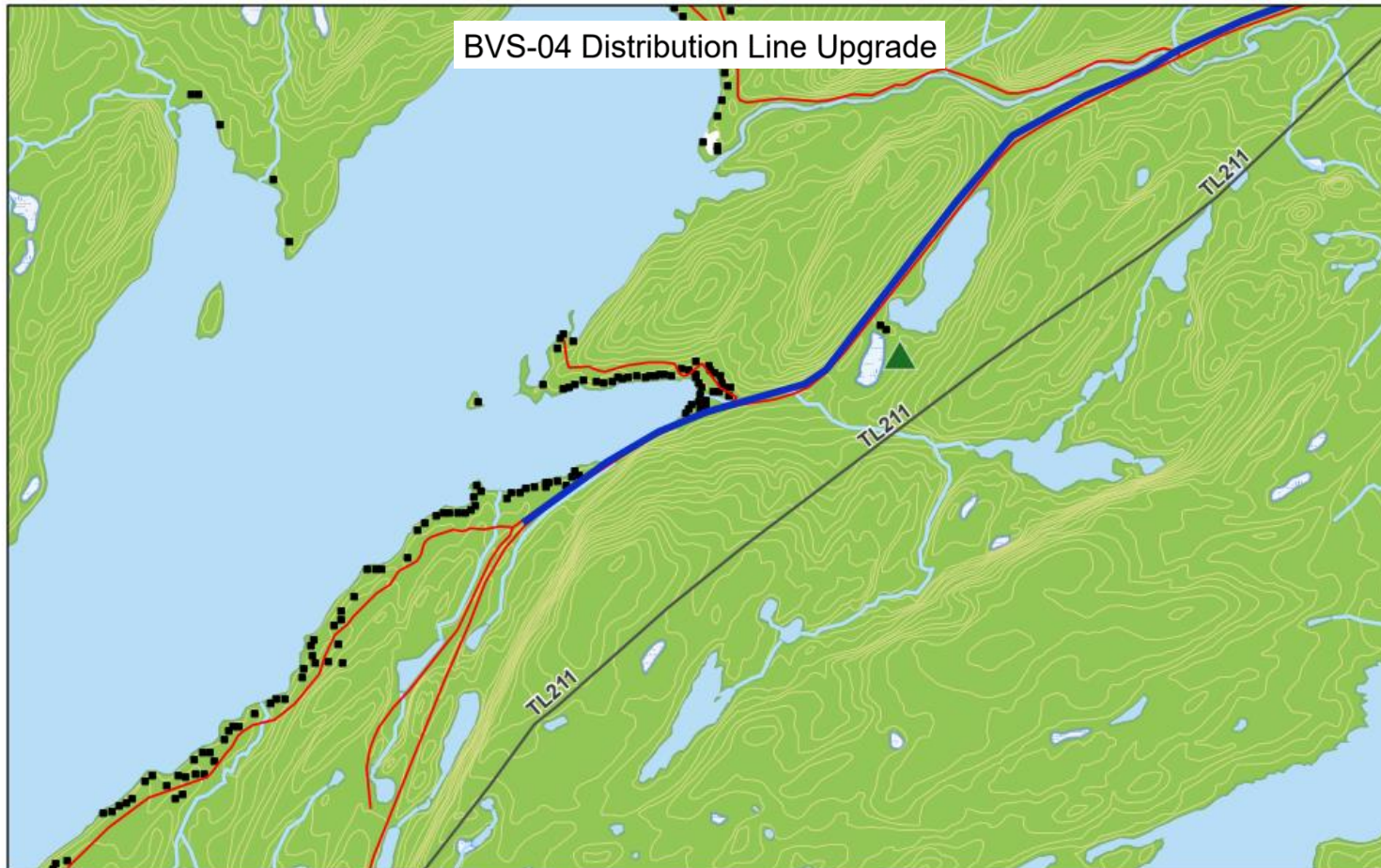


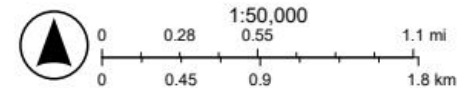
Figure A-2 1:50000 drawing of the Project from starting point near Pinchgut Lake.

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12/14/2023

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| BVS-04 Rebuild | Campground | Lake | Vegetation |
| Road | River | 15m Buffer - Waterbodies | |
| Building | Wetland | Contours | |



Esri, NRCan
K. Filler

Figure A-3 1:50000 drawing of the Project to endpoint near George's Lake.

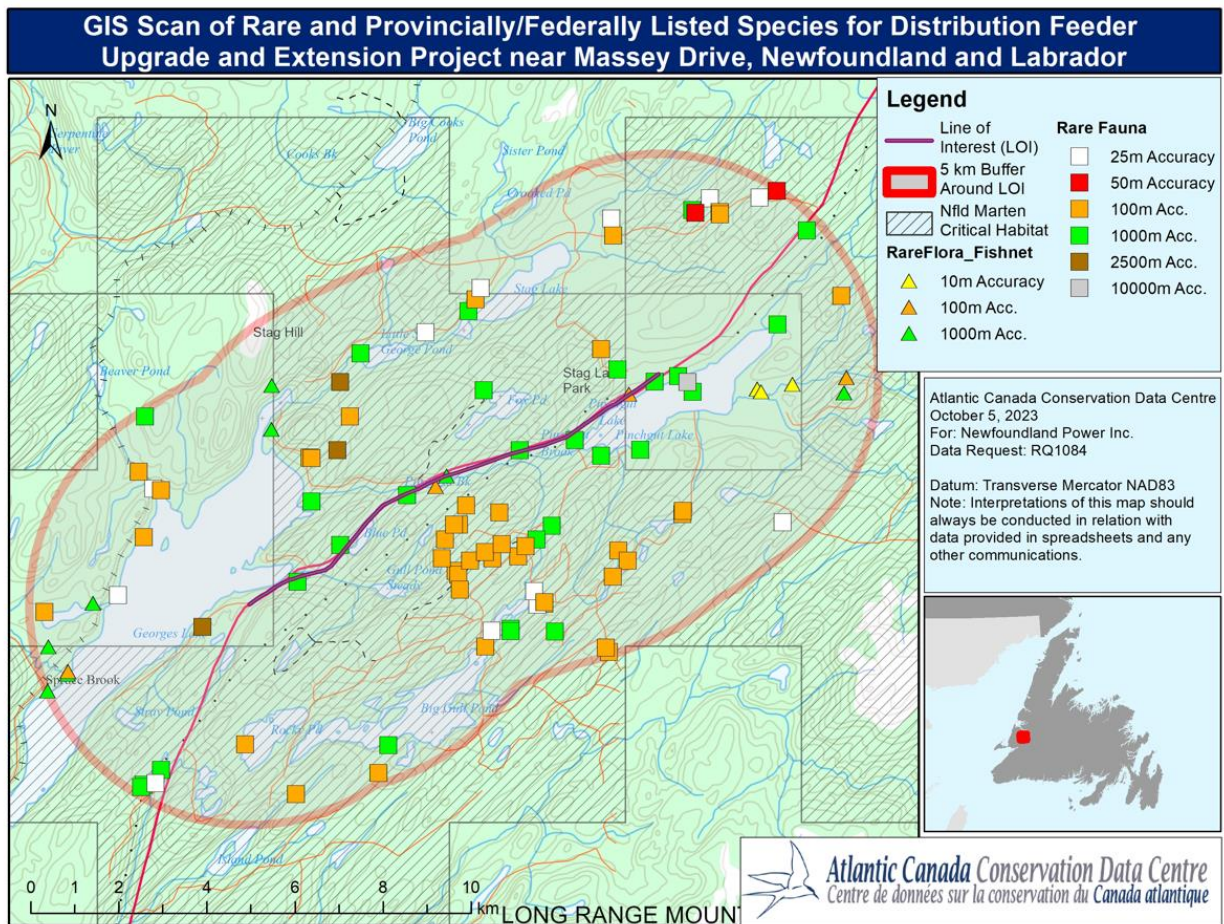
APPENDIX B

Scheduled Salmon Rivers within 200m of the Project

Table B-1 Scheduled Salmon Rivers within 200 meters of project activity.

River	Longitude	Latitude	Scheduled
Pinchgut Brook	-58.013478	48.806209	Yes
Georges Lake	-58.100905	48.791361	Yes

APPENDIX C
ACCDC Rare Species Mapping



APPENDIX D
Breeding Bird Species

The following species could be present in areas of Southwest Newfoundland. Species in bold have displayed evidence of breeding. Likelihood of Species Presence in SW Newfoundland provides the percentage of atlas squares in the region that have had reported observations of the species.

SPECIES	Highest Breeding Evidence	Likelihood of Species Presence in SW Newfoundland (%)
Canada Goose		25
Blue-winged Teal †		0
Northern Shoveler †		1
American Wigeon		16
Mallard		8
American Black Duck		27
Northern Pintail		3
Green-winged Teal		12
Ring-necked Duck		16
Greater Scaup		3
Common Eider §		6
Common Goldeneye		6
Hooded Merganser †		1
Common Merganser		7
Red-breasted Merganser		12
Ruffed Grouse		23
Willow Ptarmigan		0
Rock Ptarmigan †		2
Spruce Grouse		9
Pied-billed Grebe †		1
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)		6
Mourning Dove		12
Ruby-throated Hummingbird †		3
Sora †		1
American Coot †		0
Semipalmated Plover †		4
Piping Plover †		6
Killdeer †		8
Least Sandpiper †		1
American Woodcock †	Singing	3
Wilson's Snipe	Singing	54
Spotted Sandpiper	Singing	40
Greater Yellowlegs	Agitated Behavior	30
Willet †		3
Black Guillemot §		6
Black-legged Kittiwake §		1
Black-headed Gull †		2
Ring-billed Gull §		14
Herring Gull §		25
Great Black-backed Gull §		19
Caspian Tern †		1
Common Tern §		18
Arctic Tern §		4
Common Loon	Singing	36

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Leach's Storm-Petrel §		0
Northern Fulmar ‡		0
Great Cormorant §		4
Double-crested Cormorant §		11
American Bittern		3
Great Blue Heron † §		15
Osprey		15
Northern Harrier		13
Sharp-shinned Hawk		8
Northern Goshawk		3
Bald Eagle		11
Rough-legged Hawk †		0
Great Horned Owl		13
Northern Hawk Owl †		0
Short-eared Owl †		3
Boreal Owl †		0
Northern Saw-whet Owl †		11
Belted Kingfisher	Pair in Suitable Habitat	31
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker †		0
American Three-toed Woodpecker †		1
Black-backed Woodpecker		6
Downy Woodpecker		31
Hairy Woodpecker		31
Northern Flicker		38
American Kestrel †		5
Merlin		28
Olive-sided Flycatcher †	Singing	37
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Singing	69
Alder Flycatcher	Singing	24
Least Flycatcher †		5
Eastern Kingbird †		1
Blue-headed Vireo	Singing	39
Philadelphia Vireo †		8
Red-eyed Vireo †		16
Canada Jay	Feeding Young/ Singing	28
Blue Jay	In Appropriate Habitat	36
American Crow	In Appropriate Habitat	57
Common Raven		45
Black-capped Chickadee	Singing	60
Boreal Chickadee	Singing	59
Horned Lark		2
Tree Swallow	Singing	40
Bank Swallow † §		13
Barn Swallow †		3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Multiple (7+) Singing Birds	76
Golden-crowned Kinglet		50
Red-breasted Nuthatch		34
Brown Creeper †		5
Winter Wren †		15
European Starling		36
Gray Catbird †		10
Veery †		1
Gray-cheeked Thrush †		0

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Swainson's Thrush	Singing	65
Hermit Thrush	Singing	52
American Robin	In Appropriate Habitat/ Agitated Behavior	86
Cedar Waxwing		37
House Sparrow		24
American Pipit		0
Evening Grosbeak †		2
Pine Grosbeak	Singing	44
Purple Finch	Singing	49
Common Redpoll		5
Red Crossbill †		4
White-winged Crossbill	Singing	31
Pine Siskin	Singing	24
American Goldfinch	Singing	51
Chipping Sparrow †		7
Fox Sparrow	Singing	75
Dark-eyed Junco	Nest with Young	62
White-throated Sparrow	Feeding Young	83
<u>Savannah Sparrow</u>		65
Song Sparrow	Agitated Behavior	44
Lincoln's Sparrow	Agitated Behavior	66
<u>Swamp Sparrow</u>		59
Bobolink †		0
Red-winged Blackbird †		8
Brown-headed Cowbird †		0
Rusty Blackbird †		21
Common Grackle		31
Ovenbird	Singing	25
Northern Waterthrush	Singing	70
Black-and-white Warbler	Agitated Behavior	69
Tennessee Warbler	Singing	21
Mourning Warbler	Singing	61
<u>Common Yellowthroat</u>		62
American Redstart	Singing	63
Cape May Warbler †		11
Magnolia Warbler	Singing	67
Bay-breasted Warbler †		16
Blackburnian Warbler †		5
Yellow Warbler	Singing	81
Blackpoll Warbler	Singing	61
Palm Warbler		17
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Singing	68
Black-throated Green Warbler	Agitated Behavior	63
Wilson's Warbler	Agitated Behavior	38
Red Squirrel		0