



COR-2024-562

FEB 29 2024

Reg. # 2285

NL Power Inc
A Fortis Company
Attn: Kathleen Fillier
55 Kenmount Road
P.O. Box 8910
St. John's, NL A1B 4P2
E-mail: kfillier@newfoundlandpower.com

Dear Kathleen Fillier:

Re: Pinchgut Lake to George's Lake Distribution Line Upgrade (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, including your commitment to consult with Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd. (CBPPL) regarding any overlap of proposed activities within CBPPL timber limits, and with other land users noted in the registration document.
- The Water Resources Management Division (WRMD) of the Department of Environment and Climate Change requires you to submit an Erosion Control Plan that identifies erosion-susceptible areas of the Project that occur within the Stephenville Crossing floodplain watershed and measures that will be implemented to mitigate the effects of erosion. The Erosion Control Plan must be approved by the WRMD prior to Project commencement. For more information, please contact the WRMD at (709) 729-2563 or via e-mail at waterinvestigations@gov.nl.ca.

- The Wildlife Division of the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture requires the following:
 - Surveys for Black Ash and Red Pine are required before the project commences. Survey results must be presented to the Wildlife Division for further consultation regarding any potential mitigations/requirements for Black Ash and Red Pine prior to clearing activities.
 - Should any vegetation clearing commence prior to June 30 the proponent must contact the Wildlife Division (WildLifeReferrals@gov.nl.ca, subject EA 2285) at least 15 business days prior to the planned work start date with specific information on locations, planned activities, and associated equipment as well as proposed time frame, for review and approval to ensure no negative impacts to American marten or their denning sites.
 - 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) or within 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). The location of any raptor nest sites must be reported to the Wildlife Division.
 - You must submit a copy of the Environmental Protection Plan noted in the registration document, to the Wildlife Division for review and approval prior to Project commencement.
- 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, within 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 e-mail 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 e-mail joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca

Sincerely,



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

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