



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Environment and Conservation
Environmental Assessment Division

March 24, 2014

Mr. David Schulze
Dionne Schulze - Attorneys
507 Place d'Armes #1100
Montreal Quebec H2Y 2W8

Dear Mr. Schulze:

Re: Reply to your letter dated February 17, 2014 concerning the *Species at Risk Impacts, Mitigation and Monitoring Plan* for Labrador-Island Transmission Link Project (Transmission Project)

I am writing in response to your letter of February 17, 2014 regarding the *Species at Risk Impacts, Mitigation and Monitoring Plan*.

Nalcor Energy must obtain a Section 19 permit under NL's *Endangered Species Act* in order to ensure that appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are in place to protect species at risk to the greatest extent possible. The development of an acceptable *Species at Risk Impacts, Mitigation and Monitoring Plan* (the "Plan") is expected to satisfy NL's requirements for the issuance of a Section 19 permit.

One draft of the Plan has already been referred to Aboriginal governments / organisations for review, and given the substantive changes required to the Plan since that time, a further iteration of the Plan will also be referred for Aboriginal consultation, as per the Project's Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines. If the Conseil des Innus de Ekuanitshit has questions during its review of the Plan, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Kirsten Miller, Senior Wildlife Biologist – Habitat Management/GIS, (Wildlife Division) at (709) 637-2029 or via email at kirstenmiller@gov.nl.ca.

Your letter also asserted, on behalf of the Conseil des Innus de Ekuanitshit, that the projected 30-day timeframe for Aboriginal consultation on this next iteration of the Plan will be insufficient.

As outlined in the Transmission Project's Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines, Aboriginal consultation periods provide the opportunity for Aboriginal governments / organisations, such as the Conseil des Innus de Ekuanitshit, to comment on applications for regulatory approvals required for the Transmission Project and to provide important information that forms part of Government's decision making process, including enabling Government to consider the projected adverse impacts of activities on settled or asserted Aboriginal rights and to consider mitigation measures if appropriate. However, such a consultation process must be practical and

must strive for a balance between various interests in land and resource development decision-making processes.

As such, whenever an Aboriginal government / organisation requests additional time to review or provide comment on any planned activities, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will consider each request on its own merits, rather than revising the entire Aboriginal consultation process.

Accordingly, once the Aboriginal consultation period has commenced for the Plan, should the Conseil des Innus de Ekaunitshit at any time during that 30-day period advise Government that it requires additional time to review the Plan, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will consider that request at that time.

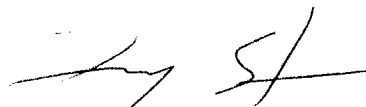
Your letter requested a French translation of that part of the Plan that concerns caribou in Labrador, specifically the Red Wine Mountain Herd(RWMH). While the official language of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is English, a French translation can be provided for your convenience, and the department will arrange for same. This translated section will be sent to your client concurrently with the complete Plan by Nalcor Energy when it commences Aboriginal consultation on the Plan in the near future.

With respect to the provision of the most recent data on the RWMH, the department can provide certain types of data, such as overall herd range, winter ranges, calving/post-calving ranges, and population estimates. However, the department is unable to provide recent specific location data. We trust you understand the sensitivity and concern related to conservation efforts of making public the specific locations of threatened animals under the Endangered Species Act. Please note that there are currently no other projects undergoing provincial environmental assessment (EA) within the RWMH range.

Please note that participant funding was made available to Aboriginal governments / organisations during the EA process for this Project, and that the proponent is understood to have also made offers of financial support during the EA process. There is no further funding available at this time.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention.

Sincerely,



Ivy Stone

Environmental Assessment Division

c.c. Chief Jean-Charles Piétacho, Conseil des Innus de Ekuanitshit (BY FAX: 418-949-2085)
Brian Harvey, Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office
Kirsten Miller, Wildlife Division, Department of Environment & Conservation