

October 29, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Schulze,

**Re: Reply to your October 8, 2014 letter concerning the Environmental Assessment of the Labrador-Island Transmission Link Project: *Endangered Species Act* – Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for Endangered Species. Your file number: 7550-005**

I would like to thank you for your correspondence of October 8, 2014. Please accept the department's apologies for the time taken to respond to your questions and concerns in previous correspondence sent to us. On October 17, 2014 Mr. Bas Cleary sent a detailed letter to you that I trust addresses many of the concerns from your letter of September 25, 2014. In today's letter I will endeavor to address any issues identified in your most recent letter that weren't addressed in Mr. Cleary's October 17, 2014 letter.

Please note that the province has previously explained its position relative to the provision of translation/interpretation services.

Detailed information was provided in Mr. Cleary's October 17, 2014 letter concerning the roles of federal and provincial officials in the work to develop recovery strategies for Labrador caribou. In addition, federal officials are more than welcome at any multilateral discussions to discuss protection of Labrador caribou that may be scheduled.

The intent of the SAR IMMP is to provide for appropriate mitigation to ensure that impacts from the project are minimized to the degree possible and will not prevent the recovery

or survival of the designated species. The SAR IMMP also defines monitoring projects designed to confirm Nalcor's predictions made in the EIS and to determine the effectiveness of measures taken to mitigate the adverse environmental effects of the Project. Please be assured that the province's wildlife officials have considered and applied, where appropriate, the example from British Columbia, as well as examples of monitoring and mitigation documents from other jurisdictions in Canada, to inform their expertise on the Project's impact mitigation and monitoring plan. For example, many of the possible management actions outlined in Table 2 of the *South Peace Northern Caribou Mitigation and Monitoring Plan Guidance* to mitigate impacts to caribou through avoidance (relocating activities outside of sensitive time periods, using previously disturbed areas, scheduling within time windows), minimization (access control measures, standardized practices and guidelines, decommissioning of access not needed for long term maintenance), and offsetting (deactivating or restoring roads, research, monitoring, inventory) are committed to in the SAR IMMP. These are further explained in Mr. Cleary's October 17<sup>th</sup> letter.

I note that you requested answers to a number of questions prior to having the community biologist provide comments on the SAR IMMP sent out for Aboriginal consultation on September 10, 2014 by Nalcor. Now that those questions have been addressed, the department looks forward to receiving your client's comments on the Plan. Given the time it has taken to get answers to you, the department will accept your client's comments on the Plan up until November 10, 2014.

I urge you and your client to submit any comments you may have on the SAR IMMP to Ms. Kirsten Miller, Senior Wildlife Biologist in the provincial Wildlife Division. Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention and please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any additional concerns.

Sincerely,



Ivy Stone

Environmental Assessment Division