

June 9, 2017

[REDACTED] s.40(1)

Dear [REDACTED] s.40(1)

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (File # NR-43-2017)

On May 11, 2017, the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

A copy of Hatch's 2013 "Feasibility study of the hydraulic potential of coastal Labrador"

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Department of Natural Resources, confirmed by the Deputy Minister, to provide access to the requested information.

I note that after consultation with Nalcor it was felt that at page 52 of the Annex (page 371 of 412 in the full report), under Section 7 Economic Analysis the attached Table should be referenced.

I further note that the excerpt below is in reference to Section 4.1, Storage Site 5B, which is found on page 15 of the Annex (page 334 of 412 in the full report). Both the table and this excerpt were subsequently provided by Hatch in follow up discussions on the Study and will help inform a full understanding of the Study.

Site 5B, Gilbert River, is upstream (west) of Gilbert Bay, and the powerhouse tail race as proposed would discharge into Gilbert Bay. This bay has a resident population of genetically distinct Atlantic cod referred to as the Golden Cod. In 2005, the Gilbert Bay Marine Protected Area (MPA) was established to protect the Golden Cod and its habitat. The MPA designation does not preclude possible hydroelectric development on lands near the Gilbert River. However, if this site were selected for further consideration, more study would be warranted to define potential effects the development could have on the marine ecosystem downstream. In

addition, environmental assessment planning would need to take into account the Golden Cod and the MPA as part of its routine stakeholder identification and issues scoping analysis. It is likely that this exercise would identify that the existence of the MPA and the Golden Cod would require additional stakeholder consultations and detailed assessment of the potential interactions between the project and the downstream Golden Cod population and habitat.

The location of the downstream components (powerhouse and tailrace) of the proposed Site 5B development were selected to maximize head and corresponding energy production, and with a footprint outside the boundaries of the MPA. During environmental studies and final engineering, the final selected coordinates of the powerhouse and tailrace would be fixed to fall outside of the MPA.

As set out in section 42 of the Act you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the department's decision to provide access to the requested information. A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner. Your request should identify your concerns with the department's response and why you are requesting a review.

The request for review may be addressed to the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P.O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John's, NL. A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

Pursuant to section 52 of the Act, you may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after receiving the department's decision.

Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Completed Access to Information Requests website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

For further details about how an access to information request is processed, please refer to the Access to Information Policy and Procedures Manual

at <http://www.atipp.gov.nl.ca/info/index.html>.

If you have any questions regarding the processing of your request, please feel free to contact me by telephone at 729-0463 or rhynes@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod Hynes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Rod Hynes
ATIPP Coordinator

Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.