

November 26, 2019



Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (File # NR-238-2019)

On November 19, 2019, the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

Please provide a copy of the October Meeting Note entitled "Overview of Matador Mining Limited". If there were any other meeting, information, decision, direction, or briefing notes prepared in the past year relating to Matador Mining or Matador Canada please provide this information also

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 records. The responsive records are attached.

We are providing access to the most information possible but have made redactions in accordance with Sections 29(1)(a) and 35(1)(d)(g) of ATIPPA, 2015 as follows:

29. (1)(a) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or minister;

35. (1)(d) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information which could reasonably be expected to disclose information, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to result in the premature disclosure of a proposal or project or in significant loss or gain to a third party.

35. (1)(g) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information which could reasonably be expected to disclose information, the disclosure of which

could reasonably be expected to prejudice the financial or economic interest of the government of the province or a public body.

The Department of Natural Resources previously replied to an access to information request relating to Matador Mining. In accordance with S.22.1.a of ATIPPA, 2015 (see below), please refer to the following website for these records:

<https://atipp-search.gov.nl.ca/public/atipp/requestdownload?id=10761>

22. (1) (a) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose a record or part of a record that is published and is available to the public whether without cost or for purchase;

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, please feel free to contact me at 709-729-0463 or rhynes@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rod Hynes".

Rod Hynes
ATIPP Coordinator

Information Note
Department of Natural Resources

Title: Overview of Matador Mining Limited

Issue: To provide an update on the status of Matador Mining Ltd.'s mineral exploration and mining development activity.

Background and Current Status:

- Matador Mining Ltd. (Matador) is a Western Australia-based gold exploration company with its flagship project, Cape Ray Gold Project, located on the southwest coast of NL.
- Matador acquired Nordmin Resource and Industrial Engineering Limited's 80 percent interest in the Cape Ray Gold Project in July 2018. Nordmin, in a joint venture agreement with Benton Resources, registered an Environmental Assessment (EA) in July 2016 to develop the Cape Ray property, which Matador plans to continue.
- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) extension has been granted through the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment and is due August 2020.
- The Cape Ray Gold Project is located approximately 25 kilometres from Port aux Basques (see Appendix A). The Company is currently carrying out baseline environmental studies and has encouraged public participation through two public consultations in the communities of Port aux Basques and Isle au Morts.
- The Company has carried out extensive exploration in 2018 and 2019 totaling nearly \$4.3 million and 12,000 metres in drilling. Matador's mineral tenure covers approximately 80 kilometers along strike of the Cape Ray Shear geological fault.
- Matador has upgraded a road to the area leading to the base camp, which is approximately 35 kilometres from Port aux Basques. As of September 2019, Matador has 13 employees on site, including field staff and geologists.
- Matador has a Mineral Resource estimate of 1.02 million ounces gold at 2.2 grams per tonne as announced on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) January 30, 2019. With ongoing exploration, Matador expects the release of an updated resource by Q4, 2019.
- Matador further intends to release a Development Study by Q1 2020 to assess the potential for gold production and will evaluate throughput scenarios of 1 million tonnes to 1.5 million tonnes per annum, with production of up to 100,000oz per annum

Analysis:

- Matador operates in the province under the name Matador Canada PTY Ltd. and is registered to do business in the province.
- The Company trades under the Australian Securities Exchange. The resource estimate is classified as a Joint Ore Reserves Committee report, which would be equivalent to an NI 43-101 resource estimate for companies that trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

- The Development Study, which uses resources instead of reserves, is scheduled to be released by Q1 2020 and is considered the equivalent of a Preliminary Economic Assessment study.
- Matador intends to establish an open-pit mining operation, with a mill on site to produce gold ore. The Company has estimated that the construction phase of the project would require up to 200 employees, [REDACTED] S.29.1.a
S.35.1.d
S.35.1.g
- NR Mines officials have met with Matador on several occasions, [REDACTED] S.29.1.a
[REDACTED] Meetings to date have been general S.35.1.d
in nature, to provide Matador with an overview of the regulatory processes for mining in the S.35.1.g
province. Officials remain available to meet with matador as needed.

Prepared/approved by: B. Lawlor / T. Walters / K. Bradbury / A. Smith
Ministerial approval:



October 23, 2019

Appendix A

The Cape Ray gold project is located about 25 kilometres northeast of the coastal town of Port aux Basques.

