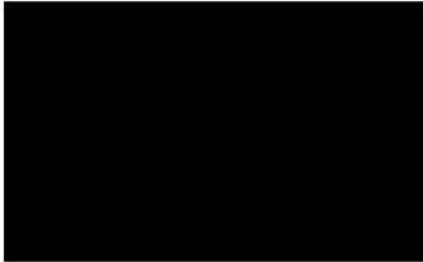


December 16, 2019



**Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (File # NR-241-2019)**

On November 20, 2019, the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

**I would like to request a list of all current studies being undertaken by or for the department, their time frame, their scope and their cost. This would include pilot projects, consultant studies and any other research pertaining to department programs or policy.**

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 (please see below).

There are currently eleven projects ongoing within the Geological Survey Division of the Department of Natural Resources. These are:

- Hopedale (Labrador) Collaborative Research project
- Labrador Trough Regional Mapping and Mineral Deposits study
- Ingrid Lake (Labrador) Regional Mapping project
- Ashuanipi (Labrador) Regional Mapping project
- St. Alban's (Newfoundland) Regional Mapping project
- Bonavista and Avalonia (Newfoundland) Regional Mapping project
- Generalized Paleontology (Newfoundland) project
- Central Newfoundland Base Metals project
- Glover Island and Grand Lake Mineral Deposits study
- Gold Occurrences (Newfoundland) Mineral Deposits study

- Fluorine Occurrence (Newfoundland) Mineral Deposit study

Time Frame - these projects are in various stages of completion. Each project is a multi-year endeavor. While some projects are nearing completion, many have just been initiated, and will reach completion within 3 to 5 years.

Cost - the overall budget for these projects is approximately \$475,000. Full funding amounts are subject to change based on programmatic requirements.

The Clean Power Roadmap for Atlantic Canada will outline how the Federal Government, the Provinces and electric utilities can collaborate to develop a regional, long-term (20 years) electricity supply plan to help the region move to an affordable, reliable and clean power supply as New Brunswick and Nova Scotia retire their remaining coal-fired generation plants. The Committee will develop an evidence-based Final Report that examines electricity demand in the region, evaluates different options to develop new clean electricity supplies, and identifies the most cost-effective and critical transmission projects.

Time Frame - the final report is planned to be published no later than March 2021.

Cost – to be borne by Natural Resources Canada

In The Way Forward, government committed to work with industry and other stakeholders to develop a renewable energy plan that is focused on creating employment opportunities and further positioning the province as an energy hub. To prepare for the work, staff reviewed the renewable energy plans of other provinces/territories. The department had an initial targeted meeting with an industry working group mid-October. Information from this meeting will assist the department as it prepares for larger industry and stakeholder consultations in the coming months.

Time Frame - Government plans to release the renewable energy plan in 2020.

Cost - \$0 (internal)

The Mineral Development Division is developing a Dam Risk Registry for all orphaned and abandoned mine's (OAM) tailings dams. The goal of the risk registry is to identify and characterize risks and liabilities at OAM dams, assess the significance of the identified risks, to prioritize the remediation work and to reduce the long-term risks and liabilities. The work on the OAM dam risk registry is being prepared for executive approval by the end of fiscal.

Time frame: Completion by March 31, 2020

Costs: \$0 (internal)

Englobe Corp. (Englobe) was engaged to review, assess, and recommend potential design options for the former Whalesback Mine site located near the Town of Springdale, NL. Englobe's mandate was to recommend a preferred design option for the tailings dam at the Whalesback site considering health and safety (based on Canadian Dam Association [CDA] guidelines), environmental protection and construction cost.

Time frame: Completion by March 31, 2020

Costs: \$18,323.00

The spillway at the tailings dam at the former Gullbridge mine has been identified as containing undersized material. The project includes replacing the rip rap on the Gullbridge spillway with larger rip rap and spreading agricultural lime on site to improve the quality of water exiting the spillway. Wood Canada Limited has been tasked with designing the spillway, providing the call for contractor bids, supervising construction, completing a final survey and preparing as-built drawings.

Time frame: Completion by March 31, 2020 (Note: This may be deferred to summer 2020 if winter conditions prevent the completion of the work)

Costs: \$22,851.06 (Price includes construction supervision)

The Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador are conducting a regional assessment in the eastern portion of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area focused on the effects of existing and anticipated offshore oil and gas exploratory drilling in this region. The regional assessment aims to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the impact assessment process as it applies to oil and gas exploration drilling in this region, while at the same time ensuring that the highest standards of environmental protection are applied and maintained. The assessment is building upon the experience and knowledge gained in assessing previous projects and will reduce duplication in processes and information.

Timeframe: Study Report expected end of 2019.

Cost: All costs covered by the Impact Assessment Agency (federal govt.)

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](mailto:rhynes@gov.nl.ca).

Sincerely,



Rod Hynes  
ATIPP Coordinator