March 17, 2015

Dear [Redacted]

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, file # NR-006-2015

On February 27, 2015, the Department of Natural Resources (the department) received your request for access to the following records/information:

_I am requesting briefing notes (prepared for & sent) and memos for ministerial staff (i.e. Derrick Dalley and his Deputy) on fracking near Gros Morne National park, specifically the moratorium. I would also like correspondence (including email) between June 2014 & September 2014 between department staff and the UNESCO World Heritage Committee regarding the meeting in Doha in June of 2014 and the anti-fracking buffer zone. I would like also copies of exploration licenses given to companies in the Green Point Shale in the last two years. I would like also the meeting minutes from the five person fracking panel studying the implications of fracking for the last six months._

Please be advised that our records indicate that the department has no records responsive to your request. I offer the following explanatory notes:

- The department does not possess any briefing notes, memos or correspondence as specified in your request;
- The department does not possess any meeting minutes from the fracking panel;
- The department has confirmed with the chair of the fracking panel that, to date, the panel itself has not recorded meeting minutes. For your information, the panel’s meetings to date have been of an unofficial, housekeeping nature dealing with the logistics of panel set-up.
- As for copies of exploration licenses, it is important to point out:
  - Such licenses/permits are issued on parcels of land and not based on geological targets such as the Green Point Shale;
The department of Natural Resources is responsible for onshore exploration permitting while the Canada Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) is responsible for issuing offshore exploration licenses;

- In the last two years, the department has not issued any onshore exploration permits for parcels of land relevant to the Green Point Shale;

- The C-NLOPB has a land registry system, accessible on their website, that documents all exploration licenses issued. To access the registry, follow this URL: http://www.cnlopb.ca/land_registry.shtml.

Section 43 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act) provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request or you may appeal to the Supreme Court Trial Division. A request to the Commissioner shall be made in writing within 60 days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

The address and contact information of 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
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

In the event that you choose to appeal to the Trial Division, you must do so within 30 days of the date of this letter. Section 60 of the Act sets out the process to be followed when filing such an appeal.

Please be advised that this response will be made public on the Office of Public Engagement's website following either: a) a 72 hour period if the response is sent to you electronically, or b) five business days if it is mailed. It is the goal to have the response posted on the website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that your name and address will not be visible when the response is published.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the department’s ATIPP Coordinator at (709) 729-1651.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

CHARLES W. BOWN
Deputy Minister