April 1, 2019

Dear [Name]

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (File # NR-18-2019)

On March 4, 2019, the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

January 2019 meeting note titled Minister Coady and Vale.

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 records are attached.

We are providing access to the most information possible but have made redactions in accordance with Sections 29(1)(a), 35(1)(d), 35(1)(f) and 35(1)(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)(f) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information which could reasonably be expected to disclose positions, plans, procedures, criteria or instructions developed for the purpose of contractual or other negotiations by or on
behalf of the government of the province or a public body, or considerations which relate to those negotiations;

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.

Please be advised that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request, as set out in section 42 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act). 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.

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

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the Act.

Please be advised that this letter will be published following a 72 hour period after it 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 letter posted to the Office of Public Engagement’s website within one business day following the applicable period of time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 709-729-0463 or rhynes@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

Rod Hynes

Rod Hynes
ATIPP Coordinator
Meeting Note
Department of Natural Resources
Minister Coady with Vale Officials
Monday, January 28, 2019, at 2:00pm
Natural Resources Building, 7th Floor, Executive Boardroom

Attendees:
Honourable Siobhan Coady – Minister of Natural Resources
Perry Canning – Assistant Deputy Minister, Mines, Department of Natural Resources

Cory McPhee – Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Communications and Sustainability
Angie Robson – Head of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability, Canadian Operations
Kristie Cochrane – Manager, Corporate Affairs, Newfoundland and Labrador
Joao Zanon – Project Director, Voisey’s Bay Mine Expansion Project
Mark Sheppard – Head of Legal, Newfoundland and Labrador
Gary Anstey – Consultant, Anstey and Associates

Purpose of Meeting:
- Vale has requested a meeting with the Minister to introduce Angie Robson and to provide a general update on the Voisey’s Bay Project.

Background:
- The Voisey’s Bay nickel deposit was discovered in northern Labrador in 1993 by prospectors Albert Chislett and Chris Verbinski. It is a world-class mineral deposit with high grades of nickel, and also an important source of copper and cobalt. The deposit was purchased by Inco in 1996 for $4.3 billion and Inco was purchased by Vale in 2006.

- Vale Newfoundland and Labrador (VNL) operates the Voisey’s Bay mine and Long Harbour Processing Plant (LHPP) subject to conditions of the Voisey’s Bay Development Agreement.

Agenda item #1: Update on Vale Newfoundland and Labrador Operations
- The mine opened in 2005 and is producing ore containing nickel, copper and cobalt from the open pit operation, the Ovoid. Ore is processed on site into high grade nickel concentrate, middling grade nickel concentrate and copper concentrate, all of which are shipped out for further processing.

- Construction of the LHPP began in 2009 and was fully completed in November 2016. VNL estimated a two year ramp-up schedule (finish end of 2018) following completion, to reach the plant’s full capacity of 50,000 tonnes of finished nickel per year. NR has yet to receive confirmation of the completed ramp up. As of June 2018, the LHPP had achieved 75% of nameplate capacity (50,000 tonnes) on a quarterly basis and 85% on a monthly basis.

- The Ovoid constitutes only a part of the nickel resources in the Voisey’s Bay. Vale formally sanctioned the development of the underground mine in July 2015, in accordance with the Development Agreement. After being stalled due to Vale S.A.’s decision to place its entire Base Metals Business in review in the summer of 2017, the Voisey’s Bay Mine Expansion (VBME) Project received positive news on June 11, 2018, when it was announced in St. John’s that the Company would be proceeding with its underground mine.

- Total estimated capital expenditures to complete construction and commissioning of the VBME Project is estimated at approximately US$1.7 billion. To help finance the VBME
Project, Vale entered into cobalt streaming deals with Wheaton Precious Metals Corp and with Cobalt 27 Capital Corp. to sell an aggregate total of 75% of the cobalt to be delivered from January 1st, 2021, which encompasses the existing Voisey’s Bay mine and VBME Project, for a total upfront payment of US$690 million plus additional payments of 20% on average, of cobalt prices upon delivery.

**Analysis**

- The LHPP operated on 100% Voisey’s Bay high grade concentrate as of January 2016. Middling grade concentrate was introduced into the process in February 2017. The last export of nickel concentrate from the province occurred in [redacted] after which all of Voisey’s Bay nickel concentrate was sent exclusively to the LHPP for processing. Copper concentrate continues to be exported from the province.

- The Ovoid will be depleted by the end of 2022 and there will be a period between 2020 and 2022 when ore is supplied to the concentrator from both the Ovoid and the VBME Project.

- The VBME Project will sustain concentrate production at the Voisey’s Bay mill, allowing for lower-cost internal feed supply to the LHPP. Mining from two separate underground deposits, Reid Brook and Eastern Deeps, will extend the life of the operation until at least 2034. The underground mines will produce 40,000 tonnes of nickel-in-concentrate per year at the peak annual production.

- NR was informed on October 17, 2018, that the VBME Project reached first blast on the Reid Brook mine, 15 days ahead of the agreed milestone.

- A Work Task Order has been issued to have the Independent Engineer provide an opinion on the progress of the VBME Project and

**Potential Speaking Points**

- The Minister may wish to inquire on the recent dam failure at the Feijão iron ore mine in Brazil and offer our condolences for the tragic loss of lives.
- The Minister may wish to inquire about Vale’s plan for bringing the LHPP to full capacity of 50,000 tonnes of nickel per year and what additional sources of concentrate will be used to do so.

**Prepared/Approved by:** G. Taylor / A. Smith

**Ministerial Approval:**
Bios

Cory McPhee
Vice-President, Corporate Affairs, Communications & Sustainability

Cory McPhee is the Vice-President, Corporate Affairs, Communications and Sustainability with Vale’s Base Metals line of business. Born and educated in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, Mr. McPhee joined the former Inco Limited in the Public Affairs Department in 1989 and has remained with the Company in positions of increasing responsibility since (Vale acquired Inco in October 2006). After studying science at Laurentian University and journalism at Cambrian College, he worked in daily newspapers for five years as a reporter, columnist and editor. He began his career at Inco as Public Affairs Officer and progressed through positions of increasing responsibility. Cory moved to the corporate office in Toronto as Director of Corporate Affairs in May of 2007. He was named Vice-President of Corporate Affairs and Communications in July of 2009 and had Sustainability added to his accountabilities in September 2018. Cory is the co-chair of the Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce and a Director of the Mining Association of Canada. His volunteer experience includes Easter Seals (for children with physical disabilities), the Sudbury and District Food Bank, the Northeastern Ontario Cancer Research Foundation, Cinéfest and the United Way.

Angie Robson
Head of Corporate Affairs & Sustainability, North Atlantic Operations & Asian Refineries

Angie Robson is Vale’s Head of Corporate Affairs & Sustainability for Vale’s North Atlantic Operations and Asian Refineries. Angie brings a mix of government, agency and corporate communications experience to her role at Vale. Prior to joining Vale in 2005 and overseeing Corporate & Indigenous Affairs in the Company’s Ontario Operations, Angie served as the Chief Communications Advisor to the provincial Energy Minister. Prior to that she held communications roles at major communications firms including Hill & Knowlton Canada and Navigator Limited. She has also served as a faculty member in Cambrian College’s public relations program.

Angie earned an Honours BA from Laurentian University in 1996 and a MBA from McGill University in 1999. She has been heavily involved in her community over the years, serving on a number of Boards and Committees. In 2011, Angie was honoured with a ‘Top 40 Under Forty’ award from Northern Ontario Business for her contributions.

Angie was born and raised in Sudbury, Ontario where she lives with her husband and two daughters.
Kristie Cochrane
Manager of Corporate Affairs, Newfoundland & Labrador

Kristie Cochrane is responsible for the overall management of Corporate Affairs-related activities for Vale’s Newfoundland Operations & Projects, including internal and external communications, media relations, issues management, government and stakeholder relations and community investment. She joined Vale in 2015 as the Corporate Affairs Specialist for Newfoundland & Labrador. Prior to this she was the Communications Officer with Marine Atlantic, and as a key member of their Corporate Communications Team, where she was the lead for strategic development, planning and execution of all internal communications. Kristie also has extensive experience with various public relations activities, which she gained while supporting Private and Public Sectors with execution of communications and Media Relations activities while working as a Public Affairs Consultant with a local PR Agency.

Kristie holds a Bachelor of Public Relations Degree from Mount Saint Vincent University and Change Management Certification from AdPro. Kristie was born and raised in Newfoundland and continues to live in St. John’s with her partner and their blended family with four children.

Joao Zanon
Project Director, Voisey’s Bay Mine Expansion

Born in Brazil, Joao started his career working in Commissioning, Start-up and Operations of manufacturing facilities before moving to the Mining Industry. Joao has worked on Projects in all Continents before joining Vale in 2010 to work at our Karabae Hydroelectric Plant Project in Indonesia.

After a period of working on the Growth Program for Vale’s Indonesia Operations, Joao moved to Newfoundland & Labrador where he began work as the Area Project Manager for the Long Harbour Processing Plant Project. Since November 2016, Joao has been the Project Director for Vale’s Voisey’s Bay Mine Expansion Project. Joao holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Campinas in Brazil and has a MSc in Strategic Planning from Heriot – Watt University in Scotland.
Mark Sheppard  
Head of Legal, Newfoundland & Labrador  

Mark has been involved with the Voisey’s Bay project since 1995, first in private practice and then in 1996 as Chief Legal Officer for the Voisey’s Bay Nickel Company. During that time, Mark has provided legal and strategic advice on all aspect of the project and had been involved in key negotiations, including those related to impacts and benefits agreements, labour, construction and various other key agreements.  

Mark holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Philosophy from Memorial University of Newfoundland and a Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie University.