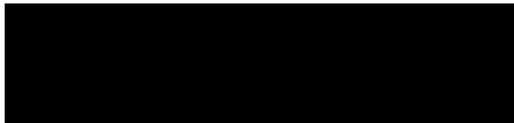


DOC/2019/01308-03

April 16, 2019



Dear 

**Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015* [Our File #: MAE/070/2019]**

---

On March 20, 2019, the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment received your request for access to the following records/information:

*"Requesting any Information / Correspondence / Briefings etc... regarding a mining exploration company operating in Central Newfoundland known as Marathon Gold - for period of February 01-2019 to the current date."*

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Deputy Minister to provide access to the requested information. In accordance with your request for a copy of the records, the appropriate copies have been enclosed.

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

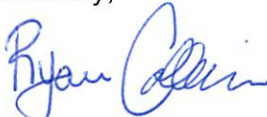
Telephone: (709) 729-6309  
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309  
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

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 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.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone at 709-729-7183 or by e-mail at [ryancollins@gov.nl.ca](mailto:ryancollins@gov.nl.ca).

Sincerely,



**RYAN COLLINS**  
ATIPP Coordinator  
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment

Enclosures

## Collins, Ryan

---

**Subject:** Marathon Gold - Coordination of EA

**Location:** Teleconference

**Start:** Thu 2/21/2019 9:30 AM

**End:** Thu 2/21/2019 10:30 AM

**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded

**Organizer:** Sweeney, Joanne

**Required Attendees:** lachlan.macleaen@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

## **Collins, Ryan**

---

**From:** Sweeney, Joanne  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2019 5:12 PM  
**To:** 'lachlan.maclean@ceaa-acee.gc.ca'  
**Subject:** coordinated EIAs

Hi Lachlan,

I'm looking forward to discussing a coordinated approach for the upcoming Marathon Gold project in Central Newfoundland. Is it also appropriate for us to discuss a coordinated EIA for the Cape Ray Gold project at that time (i.e. will you be involved with the assessment of that project)?

***Joanne Sweeney***

Director (A)  
Environmental Assessment Division  
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment  
PO Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6  
Tel. (709) 729-0673

## Collins, Ryan

---

**Subject:** Meeting Forward Notification: Marathon Gold - Coordination of EA  
**Location:** Teleconference

**Start:** Thu 2/21/2019 9:30 AM  
**End:** Thu 2/21/2019 10:30 AM

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Organizer:** Sweeney, Joanne

### Your meeting was forwarded

[Sweeney, Joanne](#) has forwarded your meeting request to additional recipients.

#### Meeting

Marathon Gold - Coordination of EA

#### Meeting Time

February 21, 2019 9:30 AM-10:30 AM.

#### Recipients

[Squires, Susan](#)

All times listed are in the following time zone: (UTC-03:30) Newfoundland

---

Sent by Microsoft Exchange Server 2010

## Collins, Ryan

---

**Subject:** Meeting Forward Notification: Marathon Gold - Coordination of EA  
**Location:** Teleconference

**Start:** Thu 2/21/2019 9:30 AM  
**End:** Thu 2/21/2019 10:30 AM

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Organizer:** Sweeney, Joanne

### Your meeting was forwarded

[Sweeney, Joanne](#) has forwarded your meeting request to additional recipients.

#### Meeting

Marathon Gold - Coordination of EA

#### Meeting Time

February 21, 2019 9:30 AM-10:30 AM.

#### Recipients

[Reynolds, John J.](#)

[Watton, Eric](#)

All times listed are in the following time zone: (UTC-03:30) Newfoundland

---

Sent by Microsoft Exchange Server 2010

## Collins, Ryan

---

**From:** Sweeney, Joanne  
**Sent:** Monday, February 18, 2019 3:41 PM  
**To:** Watton, Eric  
**Subject:** RE: Marathon

We have suggested that the proponent submit a draft. The proponent anticipates an EIS for the project.

*Joanne*

---

**From:** Watton, Eric <[ericwatton@gov.nl.ca](mailto:ericwatton@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 18, 2019 3:39 PM  
**To:** Sweeney, Joanne <[joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca](mailto:joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Marathon

Joanne,

With such a large project, can we request a draft? There are many factors and elements to mines.

Thank you,  
Eric

---

**From:** Sweeney, Joanne  
**Sent:** Monday, February 18, 2019 3:37 PM  
**To:** Watton, Eric  
**Subject:** RE: Marathon

Eric,

Nothing yet. The proponent came in for a meeting in January to discuss the EA process. We're expecting them to register in March. I'm not quite sure how I'll assign the upcoming mining projects, but it may be beneficial to participate in a call about coordinating provincial and federal EAs.

Thanks,

*Joanne*

---

**From:** Watton, Eric <[ericwatton@gov.nl.ca](mailto:ericwatton@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 18, 2019 3:31 PM  
**To:** Sweeney, Joanne <[joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca](mailto:joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** Marathon

Joanne,

Do you have any background on this project. I don't remember seeing anything on it.

Thanks,  
Eric

**Eric Watton, M.Sc.**

*Environmental Scientist (Environmental Assessment)*

Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment

Environmental Assessment Division

PO Box 8700, St. John's, NL, A1B 4J6

Direct Line: (709) 729-0834

EA Director: (709) 729-0673



## Collins, Ryan

---

**From:** Squires, Susan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2019 12:30 PM  
**To:** Sweeney, Joanne  
**Subject:** RE: Marathon Gold - Coordination of EA

Joanne,

Sorry, but I have to attend another meeting with Jamie now and I can't attend this meeting.

Susann

---

Susan Squires, Ph.D.  
Assistant Deputy Minister (A) - Environment  
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
709-729-3016  
[susansquires@gov.nl.ca](mailto:susansquires@gov.nl.ca)

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Sweeney, Joanne  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 14, 2019 4:54 PM  
**To:** Sweeney, Joanne; lachlan.maclean@ceaa-acee.gc.ca; Squires, Susan; Reynolds, John J.; Watton, Eric  
**Cc:** 'Maclean, Lachlan (CEAA/ACEE)'; Smith, Melanie (CEAA/ACEE)  
**Subject:** Marathon Gold - Coordination of EA  
**When:** Thursday, February 21, 2019 9:30 AM-10:30 AM (UTC-03:30) Newfoundland.  
**Where:** MAE-STJH-RM-BR-ConfedW (10p), MR#5 - L'Anse aux Meadows (FL5)

## Collins, Ryan

---

**From:** Sweeney, Joanne  
**Sent:** Friday, March 8, 2019 3:50 PM  
**To:** James Powell  
**Subject:** Re: Marathon Gold

Thank you for your email Jamie. As you've indicated, we've had a couple of discussions with the the CEAA folks. Both governments are committed to aligning the provincial and federal review to the extent practicable. I'm away from the office for the week of March 18-22, so that date won't work for me but I can have the EA Coordinator attend the presentation. We can discuss further on Monday when I'm back in the office.

Have a great weekend.

Joanne

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2019, at 3:19 PM, James Powell <[jpowell@marathon-gold.com](mailto:jpowell@marathon-gold.com)> wrote:

Hi Joanne,

My apologies for the brief hiatus in contact! As an update from our end, we have a draft of the Registration in hand and it is currently being reviewed. Once I have a better handle on our timeline to finalize the document, I will touch base again. I understand from Melanie Smith that there has been some communication between the province and CEA, that's great, thank you.

I mentioned in our meeting that we would like to give a presentation of the project to all of the provincial and federal departments that will be involved in the EA review, as I've done this for previous projects and find it quite useful for the proponent and the reviewers. We are completing public consultation sessions in Buchan's, Millertown, and GFW on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of March, and our COO will be in town. I appreciate it's relatively short notice but wondering if we could set this up for the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. I can arrange for a venue, likely at the Holiday Inn on Torbay Road based on its proximity to the various offices. If this date/time doesn't work, we would still like to do this meeting in the short term, and we would look at the weeks following this date. As previously discussed, we will look to make arrangements for out-of-town departments (eg. Wildlife) to conference in.

Let me know what you think – you can email or call me at [REDACTED]

Thanks,  
Jamie

---

**From:** Sweeney, Joanne <[joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca](mailto:joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Sent:** January 23, 2019 10:11 AM  
**To:** James Powell <[jpowell@marathon-gold.com](mailto:jpowell@marathon-gold.com)>  
**Cc:** Carter, Paul A. <[pcarter@gov.nl.ca](mailto:pcarter@gov.nl.ca)>; Squires, Susan <[SusanSquires@gov.nl.ca](mailto:SusanSquires@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** Marathon Gold

Hi Jamie,

Thanks for meeting with us yesterday and providing an overview of Marathon's project plans for the area southwest of Buchans/Millertown. I look forward to receiving your registration submission. As promised, I've attached information regarding the environmental assessment (EA) timelines as per the *Environmental Assessment Regulations*. The Registration and EIS timelines will be of interest to you. I've also attached our fee structure in accordance with the current Cost Recovery Policy of the Department, for your information.

If you have any questions about the EA process, please feel free to call me at 729-0673 or send me an email.

Regards,

Joanne

***Joanne Sweeney***

Director (A)

Environmental Assessment Division

Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment

PO Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6

Tel. (709) 729-0673

---

"This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender."

## Collins, Ryan

---

**From:** Smith, Melanie (CEAA/ACEE) <melanie.smith@canada.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 8, 2019 4:22 PM  
**To:** Sweeney, Joanne  
**Subject:** RE: Marathon Project - Coordination Opportunities

Great, thanks Joanne!

Have a nice weekend 😊

---

**From:** Sweeney, Joanne <joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** March 8, 2019 3:50 PM  
**To:** Smith, Melanie (CEAA/ACEE) <melanie.smith@canada.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: Marathon Project - Coordination Opportunities

Hi Melanie,

Thanks for your email and insight during Our call on Thursday. The email to Jamie looks good. Sorry for the delayed response. I've exchanged emails with Jamie and he noted he has been in touch with you. Marathon officials will be in St. John's later this month and are trying to arrange a presentation for interested government depts. I'll keep you updated on that.

Enjoy the weekend.

Joanne

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2019, at 3:11 PM, Smith, Melanie (CEAA/ACEE) <[melanie.smith@canada.ca](mailto:melanie.smith@canada.ca)> wrote:

Hi Joanne,

Thanks for the call today – it was very productive! Below is the draft email I am planning to send to Jamie. Please feel free to make any edits, additions, or deletions you feel are appropriate. I'll then send the update and copy you 😊

Thanks,  
Mel

*Hi Jamie,*

*As you are aware, we are having discussions with NL to identify opportunities for coordination on projects requiring both a federal and provincial environmental assessment.*

*We are committed to working to coordinate and align to the extent possible, while recognizing that each process has certain aspects prescribed in legislation that must be adhered to. While some details will need to be worked out and/or confirmed as the processes move forward, in principle, we are targeting coordination for the following milestones:*

- *Alignment of the Agency's Project Description screening phase with NL's registration process, including commencement of the public comment periods at the same time.*
- *Open communication throughout the development of EIS guidelines.*
- *Alignment of the public comment periods on the EIS, provided Marathon submits the provincial EIS after the document is determined to conform with the Agency's EIS guidelines.*

*Please keep us informed as the project timelines become clearer, as it will better enable us to put the steps in place to facilitate this coordination.*

*Best Regards,  
Melanie*

Team Lead, Atlantic Region  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency / Government of Canada  
[Melanie.Smith@canada.ca](mailto:Melanie.Smith@canada.ca) / Tel: 902-426-6623

Chef d'équipe, Bureau régional de l'Atlantique  
Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale / Gouvernement du Canada  
[Melanie.Smith@canada.ca](mailto:Melanie.Smith@canada.ca) / Tél. : 902-426-6623

---

“This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender.”

## Collins, Ryan

---

**From:** Watton, Eric  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019 8:35 AM  
**To:** 'Smith, Melanie (CEAA/ACEE)'; Sweeney, Joanne; 'James Powell'  
**Cc:** Sweeney, Joanne  
**Subject:** RE: Marathon Project - Coordination Opportunities

Hi Janie,

What Melanie suggests works for me as well. Please call to discuss.

Thank you,  
Eric

**Eric Watton, M.Sc.**  
*Environmental Scientist (Environmental Assessment)*  
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment  
Environmental Assessment Division  
PO Box 8700, St. John's, NL, A1B 4J6  
Direct Line: (709) 729-0834  
EA Director: (709) 729-0673

---

**From:** Smith, Melanie (CEAA/ACEE) [mailto:melanie.smith@canada.ca]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 15, 2019 2:19 PM  
**To:** Sweeney, Joanne; 'James Powell'  
**Cc:** Watton, Eric  
**Subject:** RE: Marathon Project - Coordination Opportunities

Hi Jamie,

Further to Joanne's comments, could you clarify if your intent is to formally submit to the Agency next week to begin the 10-day conformity review, or if your intent is to submit a draft Project Description to receive preliminary feedback? If you are planning to start with a draft submission, an electronic copy is sufficient.

Thanks,  
Melanie

---

**From:** Sweeney, Joanne <joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** March 15, 2019 12:50 PM  
**To:** 'James Powell' <jpowell@marathon-gold.com>  
**Cc:** Watton, Eric <ericwatton@gov.nl.ca>; Smith, Melanie (CEAA/ACEE) <melanie.smith@canada.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Marathon Project - Coordination Opportunities

Hi Jamie,

I suggest that you register the project with EA Division next week, so that we align the 45-day EA registration review with the federal completeness review. In this case, once the project is submitted and registered for provincial EA, it will

be circulated to interested federal and provincial government departments for review, and posted on the government web page for a 35-day public review. A decision from the Minister of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment is due within 45 days of registering the project. The options available to the minister are:

- a) Recommend rejection of the project to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council because it contravenes a law or policy of the government of the province or of Canada;
- b) Release the project from further environmental assessment subject to conditions;
- c) Require further environmental assessment in the form of an environmental preview report or an environmental impact statement.

The 45-day registration review aligns quite well with the federal completeness review, which I understand is a 45-day process.

Please feel free to call me if you wish to discuss. I'll be away from the office from March 18-22, 2019. Eric Watton is the project coordinator for the environmental assessment of this project. Please forward your registration document to Eric by emailing [ericwatton@gov.nl.ca](mailto:ericwatton@gov.nl.ca). We require that you submit 10 paper copies and a digital copy of the registration document, along with payment of the EA registration fee of \$400 plus HST. You may pay by including a cheque or money order made payable to the NL Exchequer Account with your registration package, or you may pay by credit card by calling 729-3042 and including proof of payment with your submission. Our fee payment policy is available online at [https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/env\\_assessment/fees/index.html](https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/env_assessment/fees/index.html).

You can reach me at 729-0673 this afternoon between 2:30 and 4:30 if you'd like to discuss.

Kind regards,

Joanne

Joanne Sweeney  
Director (A), Environmental Assessment Division  
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Tel. (709) 729-0673  
[joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca](mailto:joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca)

---

**From:** James Powell <[jpowell@marathon-gold.com](mailto:jpowell@marathon-gold.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 15, 2019 12:48 PM  
**To:** Smith, Melanie (CEAA/ACEE) <[melanie.smith@canada.ca](mailto:melanie.smith@canada.ca)>; Sweeney, Joanne <[joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca](mailto:joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Marathon Project - Coordination Opportunities

Hi Melanie, Joanne,

A quick update – I'm currently hoping to have the document finalized for mid to late next week for the 'completeness review'. Realizing that this isn't necessarily a process on the provincial side, I was still planning to submit the document to both departments. I'm assuming the submission is satisfactory in digital format at this stage? The submission is the full document (ie. not the summary) and it is approximately 100 pages of text, including figures and tables.

I am traveling next week as our senior management team will be in Central doing public presentations in the nearby communities of Buchans, Millertown, and Grand Falls-Windsor. If there is a need to discuss the submission, coordination, etc., I'm available today, or at times next week, and I should be back in town on Thursday evening.

I've mentioned to you both about a presentation to both governments here locally in St. John's. I was hoping to do this next week, however this hasn't worked out from a couple of perspectives. We still wish to do this, and I've learned this is a valuable tool for the proponent and the various departments. I'm going to look to schedule this within the first two

weeks of April at the Holiday Inn on Portugal Cove Road. This will be to present the project and to take any questions or feedback. If you have any comments on the timing, please let me know, otherwise I'll follow up with more on this later.

Cheers,  
Jamie

**James Powell, M.Eng., P.Eng.**  
Director of Environment and Stakeholder Engagement  
Marathon Gold Corporation  
Email: [jpowell@marathon-gold.com](mailto:jpowell@marathon-gold.com)  
Phone: 709-██████████

---

**From:** Smith, Melanie (CEAA/ACEE) <[melanie.smith@canada.ca](mailto:melanie.smith@canada.ca)>  
**Sent:** March 8, 2019 4:24 PM  
**To:** James Powell <[jpowell@marathon-gold.com](mailto:jpowell@marathon-gold.com)>  
**Cc:** Sweeney, Joanne <[joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca](mailto:joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** Marathon Project - Coordination Opportunities

Hi Jamie,

As you are aware, we are having discussions with NL to identify opportunities for coordination on projects requiring both a federal and provincial environmental assessment.

We are committed to working to coordinate and align to the extent possible, while recognizing that each process has certain aspects prescribed in legislation that must be adhered to. While some details will need to be worked out and/or confirmed as the processes move forward, in principle, we are targeting coordination for the following milestones:

- Alignment of the Agency's Project Description screening phase with NL's registration process, including commencement of the public comment periods at the same time.
- Open communication throughout the development of EIS guidelines.
- Alignment of the public comment periods on the EIS, provided Marathon submits the provincial EIS after the document is determined to conform with the Agency's EIS guidelines.

Please keep us informed as the project timelines become clearer, as it will better enable us to put the steps in place to facilitate this coordination.

Best Regards,  
Melanie

Team Lead, Atlantic Region  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency / Government of Canada  
[Melanie.Smith@canada.ca](mailto:Melanie.Smith@canada.ca) / Tel: 902-426-6623

Chef d'équipe, Bureau régional de l'Atlantique  
Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale / Gouvernement du Canada  
[Melanie.Smith@canada.ca](mailto:Melanie.Smith@canada.ca) / Tél. : 902-426-6623