

DEC 04 2014

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Environment and Conservation
Office of the Minister

NOV 28 2014

Mr. Wade Luzny
CEO and Executive Vice-President
Canadian Wildlife Federation
350 Michael Cowpland Drive
Kanata ON K2M 2W1

Dear Mr. Luzny:

Thank you for your letter of August 22, 2014 regarding our province's policies, regulations and guidelines governing mines and the associated tailings.

Please be assured that this province has a rigorous suite of regulations and policies to effectively mitigate any potential negative effects of mining activities. As an example, Part X of the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Environmental Assessment Regulations* require that all of the aspects of a proposed mine, such as siting, construction, maintenance, monitoring, decommissioning, clean-up and penalties are considered by government experts, aboriginal organizations and the general public as part of a formalized environmental assessment review process.

Once a project has been released from the environmental assessment process, department oversight continues through the issuance of one or more Certificates of Approval for the ongoing operation of the mine and associated facilities. Ongoing monitoring is required and regular inspections and review of the submitted monitoring results is carried out. Our policies, guidelines and regulations are constantly under review to ensure environmental protection is maximized. At all stages we look to assurances from experts independent from the mine owner and operator.

In addition, department staff work closely with the Department of Natural Resources to share knowledge and ensure that the environment is protected.

The mining industry in the province is also required to comply with the provisions of the *Water Resources Act* relating to the alteration to a body of water and water usage. To protect our water resources on pro-active basis, mining operations in the province may be required to set up and operate real-time water monitoring stations, which will be able to report results to the public.

Thank you for your interest in this important issue.

Sincerely,



DAN CRUMMELL, MHA
District of St. John's West
Minister

cc. Hon. Derrick Dalley, Minister of Natural Resources