



Environment
Office of the Minister

PO Box 442, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2P8 • www.novascotia.ca/nse

OCT 30 2019

Our File number:
40100-30-299
10700-40-54958

Connie Roney
Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
Manager, Environmental Services
1672 Granville Street
Halifax, NS B3J 2N2

Dear Connie Roney:

**Re: Class I Environmental Assessment Registration
Highway 102 Aerotech Connector Road Project**

The environmental assessment (EA) of the proposed Highway 102 Aerotech Connector Road Project (the Project) in Wellington, Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia has been completed.

This letter is to advise that, pursuant to Section 13 (1)(a) of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, I have determined that the Registration Document provided is insufficient to allow me to make a decision, and that I require additional information. Specifically, the review determined that the following additional information is required in order to evaluate potential environmental effects that may be caused by the undertaking:

1. Provide additional information on the alternative road routes as reported in the EA registration document (section 1.5 - Alternatives to the Project), that includes the following:
 - a) Detailed analysis of the environmental constraints on each of the route options, accompanied by location map of the explored alternatives and surrounding environmental features, including but not limited to geology (with respect to potential sulphide bearing material), habitat, watercourses and wetlands, and drinking water supplies.
 - b) Detailed rationale supporting the chosen alternative when it comes to avoiding and/or minimizing the adverse environmental effects.

2. Provide additional information on surface water resources for the preferred road alignment as presented in the EA registration document:

a) Provide clarification surrounding the potential impacts to local drainage and watercourses associated with the proposed works:

- i. Summarize the planned crossing locations and plans to mitigate potential impacts to those that will not have culverts or structures.
- ii. Summarize how impacts to local drainage and maintaining hydrologic functions of wetlands will be mitigated.
- iii. Permanent stream diversions are summarized in the submission – provide a clear summary as to the locations, potential impacts, and proposed mitigations related to this.

b) Provide clarification on the management of the surface water runoff. The Proponent indicates that surface water from the highway will be collected in drainage ditches running alongside the highway shoulders and there will be no direct connection of surface water runoff into existing watercourses (Section 2.2.3); however, no description of the run-off management has been provided. The proponent shall outline and discuss the proposed mitigation measures to store and/or treat surface water runoff for potential contaminants of concern prior to discharge into a watercourse.

3. Provide additional information on the proposed acid rock drainage (ARD) Management Plan for the preferred road alignment as presented in the EA Registration Document, that includes the following:

a) Provide greater detail of the location, depth and volumes of potential acid generating (PAG) rock along sections of the proposed route and plans to deal with it. This should include estimations of bedrock excavation volumes, with estimated PAG volumes produced every 100-500 metres or so along the route(s), based on preliminary cut and fill Projections. Include estimates of the final exposed bedrock PAG surface area that would need treatment/ARD mitigation measures.

b) An analysis of the operation feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed ARD mitigation measures (e.g. PAG encapsulation within the roadbed and exposed rock faces coverage) based on Proponent's past Projects and experiences. Alternative methods, such as deposition of PAG at disposal facilities, shall also be discussed.

- c) Discussion on the expected duration/ frequency of ARD and metal leaching (ML) processes due to the proposed Project. Details on the measures to mitigate the potential adverse effects of ARD/ML on the Valued Environmental Components (VECs) during the operational/maintenance phase of the Project shall also be provided. This should include evaluation of long-term conditions necessary to maintain.

4. Provide a comprehensive plan to protect public and community private drinking water supplies including mitigative options to address potential impacts associated within the Collin's Park drinking water supply watershed area and the residential homeowners relying on groundwater wells in the western end of the route (Wellington) as presented in the EA registration. These options must include groundwater and surface water supply protection plans, contingency plans, and monitoring and reporting plans.

This information must be submitted by the Proponent within one year, as an addendum to the original Registration Document. Upon submission of the information, I will have 50 days to make my decision.

The Proponent shall publish a notice in the same manner as the original notice under Section 10 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations announcing the release of the additional information to the public and stating that written comments may be submitted about the additional information to the Department.

If you have any questions regarding this decision, please contact Helen MacPhail, Supervisor, Environmental Assessment Branch, at (902) 483-2696 or via email at Helen.MacPhail@novascotia.ca.

Sincerely,



Gordon Wilson, MLA
Minister of Environment