



Maritime Forces Atlantic
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28 February 2013

Mr. Darren Hicks, Environmental Analyst
Canada Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
5th Floor, TD Place
140 Water Street
St. John's, NL A1C 6H6
Email: DHicks@cnlopb.nl.ca

Dear Mr. Hicks:

As requested, the Department of National Defence (DND) has reviewed the information provided on the ARKeX Ltd. North Flemish Pass Gravity Gradient Survey Commencement of Environmental Assessment, based on correspondence from the C-NLOPB dated 15 February 2013 to determine if DND has any expertise to provide to the proponent.

DND is likely to be operating in the vicinity of the study area in a non-interference manner during the project timeframe.

Additionally, a search of the DND UXO records was conducted to determine the possible presence of UXO within the Proponent's survey area. Records indicate there are no wrecks present within the survey area. Based on the review of the provided documents, DND has also concluded that the scope of the project activities consists of a passive survey and would not interact with shipwrecks in the project area that are not listed in the DND database.

Given DND's understanding of the survey activities to be conducted, the associated UXO risk is assessed as negligible. Nonetheless, due to the inherent dangers associated with UXO and the fact that the Atlantic Ocean was exposed to many naval engagements during WWII, should any suspected UXO be encountered during the course of the Proponent's operations, it should not be disturbed/manipulated. The Proponent should mark the location and immediately inform the Coast Guard. Additional information is available in the 2012 Annual Edition - Notices to Mariners, Section F, No. 37.

During activities which may have contact with the seabed (such as drilling or mooring), it is strongly advised that operational aids, such as remote operated vehicles, be used to conduct a seabed survey to prevent unintentional contact with harmful UXO items that may have gone unreported or undetected.

Further UXO general information is available at the following DND website
www.uxocanada.forces.gc.ca

Should you have any questions or require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Carol Lee Giffin
Formation Safety and Environmental Officer
for Commander