



April 24, 2020

Ms. Collette Horner
Regulatory Lead
BHP Petroleum – Canada
235 Water Street, Suite 701
St. John's, NL Canada A1C 1B6

File No. 17006-020-001/03

Dear Ms. Horner:

Re: BHP Canada Exploration Drilling Project EL 1157 and 1158 Seabed Survey Environmental Assessment

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB), in consultation with the Board's fishery and environmental advisory agencies, has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) information regarding the proposed programs as described in the *BHP Canada Exploration Drilling Project EL 1157 and 1158 Seabed Survey Environmental Assessment* (Stantec December 2019), and the *BHP Canada Project EL 1157 and 1158 Seabed Survey EA Addendum* (Stantec April 2020).

The C-NLOPB has completed its EA determination respecting the Project. The EA Report and associated correspondence, as referenced above, describe the Project in sufficient detail and provide an acceptable assessment of the potential environmental effects of the Project. We have considered this information and the advice of the Boards' advisory agencies and have determined that the proposed project, following the application of mitigation measures, is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. A copy of our EA Review Form is enclosed for your information.

At the time of application for subsequent program authorizations in the Project Area, BHP Canada will be required to provide information to the C-NLOPB. This information should outline the proposed activities, confirm that the proposed program activities fall within the scope of the previously assessed program, identify other ocean users that could potentially be active in the project area and results of engagement, and indicate if, with this information, the EA predictions remain valid. In addition, BHP Canada shall provide information regarding the adaptive management of requirements of the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)* into program activities (e.g., introduction of new species or critical habitat to Schedule 1; additional mitigations; implementation of recovery strategies and/or monitoring plans). If there are any changes in

the scope or if new information becomes available that may alter the EA conclusions, then a revised EA will be required at the time of authorization application and/or renewal.

No later than thirty (30) days prior to commencement of the Project, the Operator shall submit a table that lists all of the environmental commitments and mitigation measures made by the Operator during the EA process with the subsequent status of those commitments and measures.

The following conditions are recommended to be appended to authorizations granted by the C-NLOPB for the geophysical, geochemical, environmental and geotechnical program, as described in the EA Reports referenced above:

- *The Operator shall implement or cause to be implemented, all the policies, practices, recommendations and procedures for the protection of the environment included in or referred to in the Application and in the BHP Canada Exploration Drilling Project EL 1157 and 1158 Seabed Survey Environmental Assessment (Stantec December 2019), and the BHP Canada Project EL 1157 and 1158 Seabed Survey EA Addendum (Stantec April 2020).*
- *A report on mitigation and monitoring identified in the EA, and undertaken during the program, should be submitted to the C-NLOPB within six (6) months of completion of the fieldwork in a format that is suitable for public release (e.g. PDF). The report should include a description of the mitigation and monitoring measures identified in the EA, and implemented during the program as well as the assessment of the effectiveness of these measures. It shall include, but not be limited to, electronic copies of marine mammal and seabird observer reports that were produced during the program.*

If you have any questions on the attached, or wish to discuss the EA review process, I may be reached via email at imurphy@cnlopb.ca.

Yours truly,

Original Signed by Ian Murphy

Ian Murphy
Environmental Assessment Officer

Enclosure

Cc: Elizabeth Young; Daren Hicks