



P.O. Box 5667
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Your file

Votre référence

March 27, 2019

Our file

Notre référence
19-HNFL-00068

Darren Hicks
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
140 Water St., 4th Floor
St. John's, NL A1C 6H6

Dear Mr. Hicks:

Re: Environmental Assessment of the BP Canada Energy Group ULC – Ephesus Prospect ROV Survey, 2019 - 2024

As requested in your letter of February 26, 2019, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) report prepared in relation to the above noted survey at potential drilling locations on EL 1145, EL 1146, and/or EL 1148 in the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area.

The EA report provides a comprehensive description of fish, fish habitat, commercial fisheries, marine mammals, species at risk, and sensitive areas as well as potential interactions with these valued components (VCs). We understand that BP has committed to having a marine mammal/seabird observer onboard during the survey and that qualified marine biologists will be onboard to identify, in real time, benthic species and features of interest. Given the short duration and unobtrusive nature of the survey, we are in agreement with the prediction of no significant adverse environmental effects from planned projects activities or accidental events.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to review and provide comment on the EA report.

Sincerely,



Bret Pilgrim
Senior Biologist – Coastal, Marine, Oil & Gas Development
Fisheries Protection Program – Regulatory Reviews
Ecosystems Management Branch, NL Region