



**Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore
Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB)
Core Storage and Research Centre Building
Expansion**

Scoping Document

**Prepared by:
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1. Purpose

This document provides scoping information for the Environmental Screening of the expansion of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) Core Storage and Research Centre building. The C-NLOPB, the proponent, is proposing to expand its Core Storage and Research Centre. The facility is located at 30-32 Duffy Place, O'Leary Industrial Park, in St. John's, Newfoundland. The C-NLOPB's Core Storage and Research Centre houses cores, cuttings and oil samples from wells drilled in the Newfoundland Offshore Area. The centre also has an extensive collection of palynological and micro-paleontological slides and petrographic thin sections. In addition to the well material warehouse, the building contains core and cuttings examination rooms, reception and offices, and a conference room.

Included in this document is a description of the scope of the project that will be assessed, the factors to be considered in the assessment and the scope of the factors.

2. CEA Act: Regulatory Considerations

The C-NLOPB has determined, in accordance with paragraph 3 (1)(a) of the *Regulations Respecting the Coordination by Federal Authorities of Environmental Assessment Procedures and Requirements* (FCR), that an environmental assessment of the project under section 5 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEA Act) is required.

Pursuant to Section 12.2 (2) of the CEA Act, the C-NLOPB will be assuming the role of the Federal Environmental Assessment Coordinator (FEAC) for this screening and in this role will be responsible for coordinating the review activities by the expert government departments and agencies that participate in the review.

3. Scope of the Project

The project being assessed consists of the following:

The new extension will be a single storey, steel framed building comprising a building footprint of approximately 790 square metres (8,500 square feet) all of which will be dedicated to the storage of core samples. The west wall of the existing building will be opened up to provide direct access into the new extension.

The building will be constructed with the following:

- A steel frame with metal decking for the roof;
- Reinforced concrete foundations and floor slab to accommodate the loading requirements of the core storage; and
- Building exterior finish will be comprised of brick and metal siding, to match existing facility.

The proposed expansion of the Core Storage and Research Centre is located at 30-32 Duffy Place, O'Leary Industrial Park, in St. John's, Newfoundland. Site preparation and construction activities are anticipated to begin in October 2009 and be completed by

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June 2010. For the purposes of the environmental assessment, it is anticipated that the facility will be operated for 25 years.

4. Factors to be Considered

The Screening shall include a consideration of the following factors:

- Purpose of the project;
- The environmental effects of the Project, including those due to malfunctions or accidents that may occur in connection with the Project and any change to the Project that may be caused by the environment;
- Cumulative environmental effects of the Project that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out;
- The significance of the environmental effects described above;
- Measures, including contingency and compensation measures as appropriate, that are technically and economically feasible and that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects of the project; and
- The significance of adverse environmental effects following the employment of mitigative measures, including the feasibility of additional or augmented mitigative measures.

5. Scope of the Factors to be Considered

The following Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) have been identified:

- Groundwater quality/quantity;
- Soils;
- Air Quality/Noise;
- Vegetation;
- Wildlife/Birds; and
- Human Health.

Project activities under assessment will be: site preparation and construction including the clearing of vegetation and trees, site grading, pouring concrete, paving activities, air emissions and landscaping. Accidental events are also considered.

5.1 Boundaries

The Screening will consider the potential effects of the proposed project within spatial and temporal boundaries that encompass the periods and areas during and within which the project may potentially interact with, and have an effect on, one or more VECs.

The proponent shall clearly define, and provide the rationale for the spatial and temporal boundaries that are used in its Project Description. The Study Area chosen shall be clearly described in the Project Description. The Study Area will be described based on consideration of potential areas of effects as determined by the scientific literature, and project environment interactions. A suggested categorization of spatial boundaries follows.

5.1.1 Spatial Boundaries

Project Area

The area in which construction activities are to occur.

Affected Area

The area which could potentially be affected by project activities beyond the “Project Area”.

5.1.2 Temporal Boundaries

The temporal scope should describe the timing of project activities. Scheduling of project activities should consider the timing of sensitive life cycle phases of the VECs in relation to physical activities.

5.2 Description of the Environment

5.2.1 Physical Environment

Provide a brief summary description of the physical environment that the project will be carried out.

5.2.2 Biological Environment

Provide a brief summary description of the biological environment, including Species at Risk, that the project will be carried out.

APPENDIX 1

Departments and Agencies Consulted by C-NLOPB

Federal Authorities under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Department of National Defence
Environment Canada
Natural Resources Canada
Transport Canada
Health Canada

Other Departments/Agencies

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Provincial Departments (Government of Newfoundland and Labrador)

Department of Environment and Conservation
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Department of Natural Resources