CANADA-NEWFOUNDLAND and LABRADOR OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD

Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
Core Storage and Research Centre
Building Expansion
30-32 Duffy Place, O'Leary Industrial Park,
St. John's, NL

Project Description

Prepared by:
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1. General Information

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) 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.

1.1 Project Contact Information

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1.2 Regulatory Issues and Authorizations

The *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* applies to this expansion activity as the size of this construction project precludes it from exclusion and the C-NLOPB, a federal authority as defined therein, is providing the financing for the project. This expansion may be subject to an environmental assessment by the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

All construction activities are to comply with federal, provincial, and municipal building codes and regulations. All stipulations of federal, provincial or municipal authorities or

their officers must be strictly followed. Any discrepancies must be successfully resolved before the pertinent work may begin. The proponent is responsible to obtain all necessary permits, licenses and authorizations required for the proposed project.

2. Project Information

2.1 Project Structures

The proposed 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. Typically, construction will include:

- The removal of the west wall between the present building and the expansion area;
- The opening up of the corridor into the receiving area;
- The addition of air conditioning for the front reception, office and conference rooms; and
- General repair of existing deficiencies.

In addition to the proposed extension, there will be a number of general modifications carried out in the existing building to improve the building functionality and the general working environment.

The building will include 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;
- Building exterior finish will be comprised of brick and metal siding, to match existing facility;
- A roof assembly consisting of 2-ply modified overlying 100 mm of rigid insulation and vapour barrier on the metal roof deck.
- A sprinkler system to meet fire code requirements;
- Ventilation to meet minimum air change requirements; and
- Heating system.

The present parking lot has a capacity for eight (8) cars. This lot will be expanded to provide a parking capacity for fifteen (15) cars. The site will be appropriately graded and landscaped around the extension and a drainage ditch and sub-drain system added at the north and west sides of the extension to accommodate potential run-off requirements.

2.2 Project Activities

Site preparation and construction activities are anticipated to begin in October 2009 and be completed by June, 2010. For the purposes of the environmental assessment, it is anticipated that the facility will be operated for 25 years.

2.3 Resource/Material Requirements

Site preparation and construction includes the clearing of vegetation and trees, site grading, pouring concrete and landscaping. The structure will require water and sanitary

sewer service. Electrical power will be provided from the existing core storage building, including the provision of lighting and heating..

3. Project Site Information

3.1 Project Location

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. It will be located adjacent to and west of the existing Core Storage and Research Centre, and designed to blend with the appearance of this existing building. Municipal streets run adjacent to the Core Storage and Research Centre.

This area, a developed industrial park, does not contain any significant or environmentally sensitive physical or biological components. The nearest water body is a brook and small pond, located approximately 500 m south-east of the proposed site. No activities will occur within 30 m of any watercourses.

3.2 Physical Environment

The city of St. John's is located in the Maritime Barrens ecoregion. It extends westward across the southern half of the uplands of Newfoundland to the Long Range Mountains. Its climate is affected by the Atlantic Ocean, which makes it susceptible to long periods of fog. It is characterized by cool summers and short, somewhat moderate winters along the coast and colder inland. The mean annual temperature is around 5.5°C, with a mean summer temperature of 11.5°C and a mean winter temperature of -1°C. The mean annual precipitation ranges from 1200 mm to over 1600 mm.

Balsam fir is the dominant tree species. Fires have led to the replacement of fir by sparse stands of black spruce, balsam fir, tamarack, and shrubs, along with mosses and lichen. *Kalmia* species and sphagnum moss grow on blanket and flat bogs. The elevation rises from sea level to approximately 250 m above sea level, and is composed of a mixture of sedimentary rocks and granites. The uplands are rugged and rocky due to erosion, lower areas have a rolling topography.

3.3 Land Use

The proposed project is located on lands owned by the C-NLOPB, and within the boundaries of O'Leary Industrial Park. Current land use in the industrial park is a mix of storage and commercial buildings with paved surfaces, and open grassed areas.