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Canada Newfoundland & Labrador Offshore
Petroleum Board

42006-207-002

June 3, 2011

The Honourable Peter Kent
Minister of the Environment
Member of Parliament for Thornhill
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3

Honourable Minister:

On February 21, 2011, Corridor Resources Inc. (the Proponent) filed a Project Description pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEA Act) respecting its plan to drill a well to explore for potential petroleum on its exploration licence EL 1105, in the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore area in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

In order for the project to proceed, the C-NLOPB must issue an authorization pursuant to paragraph 138(1)(b) of the *Canada-Newfoundland Atlantic Accord Implementation Act*, which paragraph is listed under the *Law List Regulations*. The activities described in the Project Description are listed under the *Inclusion List Regulations* but not under either the *Exclusion List Regulations* or the *Comprehensive Study List Regulations*, and the project therefore requires a screening level of assessment.

The C-NLOPB is a Responsible Authority pursuant to the CEA Act and consequently issued a notice pursuant to the *Regulations Respecting the Coordination by Federal Authorities of Environmental Assessment Procedures and Requirements*. In response to the notice, Natural Resources Canada, Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Department of National Defence indicated that they were in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge that is necessary to conduct the environmental assessment of the project. The C-NLOPB is the sole Responsible Authority respecting the Project.

The C-NLOPB determined, pursuant to paragraph 18(3) of the CEA Act, that public participation in the environmental assessment was appropriate in the circumstances. On February 25, 2011 the Board published a draft scoping document respecting the assessment and invited the submission of public comments no later than March 28, 2011.

The solicitation of public comments on the draft scoping document resulted in the submission of over 50 comments from individual citizens, fish harvesting groups, elected municipal government representatives,

First Nations, and environmental advocacy groups. The C-NLOPB has posted all comments on its Web site at <http://www.cnlopb.nl.ca/environment/corridorresinc.shtml>.

Based on information available to date, neither the C-NLOPB nor the expert departments and agencies described above have identified evidence indicating that the project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. However, the public commentary received to date is of a level and nature greater than any the C-NLOPB has received respecting environmental aspects of a proposed exploration or production project in its 26-year history. The Board believes this warrants reference to a mediator or review panel. Therefore, pursuant to paragraph 25(b) of the CEA Act, we recommend such a referral.

Sincerely yours,


Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

c.c. The Honourable Joe Oliver, Minister of Natural Resources Canada
The Honourable Shawn Skinner, Minister of Natural Resources, Newfoundland and Labrador
Ms. Elaine Feldman, President, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Mr. Phillip R. Knoll, President and CEO, Corridor Resources Inc.