

E-mail Message

From: Information [EX:/O=CANADA NEWFOUNDLAND OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD/OU=CNOPBLAN/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=INFORMATION]
To: Drover Sonya [EX:/O=CANADA NEWFOUNDLAND OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD/OU=CNOPBLAN/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=Sonyad]
Cc:
Sent: 3/1/2011 at 11:17 AM
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Subject: FW: Submission to Environmental Assessment Hearing for 'Old Harry' exploration

From: Tony Reddin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sun 2/27/2011 11:04 PM
To: Information
Subject: Submission to Environmental Assessment Hearing for 'Old Harry' exploration

Submission to Environmental Assessment Hearing for 'Old Harry' exploration

The Gulf of St. Lawrence that means so much to all Islanders is at risk with the threat of fossil fuel development. Offshore Petroleum Boards have approved seismic blasting for oil and gas exploration, despite the objections of aboriginal, fishing, and environmental organizations in the Gulf region.

This seismic blasting could disrupt fish migrations and potentially damage marine mammals like blue whales. Exploration is likely to lead to full scale drilling. There are seismic surveys currently being conducted at the Old Harry prospect, which is located in the middle of the Gulf of St. Lawrence's Laurentian channel. This channel is a fish pass for numerous marine species like the blue whale, whose Atlantic population is very low (and appears on the species at risk public registry), and the Atlantic cod, whose status in the Gulf of St. Lawrence remains worrisome.

Current government policy gives full control of offshore drilling activities to Petroleum Boards that are not managed by elected representatives, and that have the conflicting mandate to promote oil and gas exploration as well as protect the marine environments in the gulf.

I believe that protecting the Gulf of St. Lawrence is a wise investment in Canada's social, economic and ecological future, especially considering that the economies of Quebec and all the Atlantic Provinces rely on a healthy gulf to thrive.

The catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico shows the risk of deep water oil development. Any similar oil spill in the Gulf of St. Lawrence would ruin fish stocks, beaches and coastal communities in PEI and the rest of the Gulf region.

We must have strong federal laws that are enforced to protect fish habitat and marine resources. As well, Canada should establish more Marine Protected Areas in sensitive zones of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

And we must all take part in the immediate transition of our economy away from fossil fuels. That transition will eventually have to happen as fossil fuels are depleted. It will be much less painful now, while we have the resources needed to build the necessary renewable energy systems. We can avoid more catastrophes.

I strongly urge you to impose an immediate moratorium on offshore exploration and drilling for the entire Gulf of St. Lawrence, and manage the region in an integrated way. The provinces and the federal government must work together to protect critical marine environments, fisheries and wildlife, as well as the communities, that rely on this important area.

I would be happy to provide more information.

Thank you,
Tony Reddin, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]