

Mercer, Jennifer

From: Ruelokke, Max
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 9:11 AM
To: Kelly, Sean
Subject: FW: Deep oil well in teh gulf of St. Lawrence

-----Original Message-----

From: The Bevan-Bakers [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 9:02 PM
To: Ruelokke, Max
Cc: sos.gulf@gmail.com
Subject: Deep oil well in teh gulf of St. Lawrence

Dear sir,

I am writing to ask that you not grant a permit requested by Corridor Resources for drilling in the Laurentian Trench, North of the Magdalene Islands in the gulf of St. Lawrence. This is a very productive, diverse and important marine environment that is already under stress from marine shipping, decades of overfishing, land based pollution and now, climate change. As you know, the northern cod fishery in the Gulf has already collapsed, as have a number of other groundfish and pelagic fisheries. The sensitive ecosystem in this area has already been compromised in many ways, and it is foolish to consider adding petroleum development to the load when what we need is action to rehabilitate and conserve this Canadian treasure.

If the project goes ahead there will be day to day runoff of oil and chemicals from a drill rig; undersea water brought to the surface laden with heavy metals, radioactive isotopes and petroleum; and drill muds and waste rock released into the immediate environment - which is a migratory route for commercial fish stocks as well as a known spawning ground and an overwintering refuge for various species.

Drilling always involves some accidental releases of oil and as we know from the BP blowout in the Gulf of Mexico you don't need a major storm or giant iceberg to cause a disastrous blow-out - it only takes human error. A major spill would send oil to the shores of Nfld, Quebec, NB, PEI and NS, and because of the limited flushing in the Southern Gulf most of it would go to shore and stick, with serious impacts on fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, beaches and wetlands, wildlife, summer cottages, and coastal quality of life. Canada currently has no capacity to clean up a major spill.

Back in 2002 during the Public Review Commission on oil and gas exploration off the coast of Cape Breton Island, DFO noted that our Gulf was more sensitive than Georges Bank, which is under moratorium. They also noted that history suggests that at the level of drilling going on in Eastern Canada, we can expect a serious oil spill about once every 15 years. So, with oil exploration and production off Newfoundland now well into it's second decade, we are overdue. Also, the Commissioner's report noted that there are huge gaps in scientific understanding of the Gulf that prevent any sensible judgement of potential risks and consequences.

Please stop this project, declare a moratorium on oil drilling inside the gulf, and initiate a strategic environmental assessment with a full panel review and comprehensive, regional public consultation process so that we have a chance to take a hard look at the science, especially new information from the Gulf of Mexico, and take time to debate and decide what is in the best interests of the Canadian people, the economy and the environment.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Peter Bevan-Baker, Green Party candidate for Malpeque, Prince Edward Island.