

Mercer, Jennifer

From: Burley, Dave
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 5:06 PM
To: Young, Elizabeth; Hicks, Darren
Subject: Fw: Old Harry Exploratory Drilling Program

dburley@cnlopb.nl.ca

via Blackberry

From: John Hopkins
To: Burley, Dave
Cc: Ruelokke, Max; Allan Campbell ; Premier's Office ; Robert Vessey ; njleclair@gov.pe.ca
Sent: Mon Mar 28 15:01:42 2011
Subject: Old Harry Exploratory Drilling Program

Corridor Resources Inc. Old Harry Exploratory Drilling Program CEAR
Number 11-01-60633

To Whom it Might Concern,

As someone living in Atlantic Canada, and in PEI in particular, what happens in Newfoundland if there is an environmental disaster from drilling, will have impact on this Province. PEI's beaches are a huge source of revenue for this Province for tourism. We also have sensitive Gulf fisheries with many species of fish, including some of the last remaining stocks of Western Bluefin Tuna in the world. These fish have already suffered from the Gulf of Mexico oil drilling disaster, where these they spawn. Tuna are an important commercial and sport-fishing species for PEI and Atlantic Canada. Migrating mackerel, herring, and silversides off our shores is a breadbasket for our large pelagic fish. Other dependent species include halibut, hake, the still fragile cod biomass, and crustaceans such as lobster and snow crab. Any catastrophic event impacting the overall interrelated food-chain, from oil spills or from overfishing by seiners in the Gulf, will have the same devastating and cascading consequences. Drilling in the Gulf is a definite threat on all these accounts, given what the world has recently witnessed.

The Gulf demonstrates the need for oil companies to categorically demonstrate how they would contain a blow-out of this magnitude. As we witnessed in horror, there was no effective and quickly installed containment technology available for wells being drilled in deep waters. The case in Newfoundland is even more extreme in this regard because the water here is deeper still. Of course, oil companies will assure us that they can handle it and there will be a minimal risk. They are biased and will hire consultants to write environmental mitigation plans and woo politicians, to allow them to get what they want, and to gloss over anything that might stop them from drilling. Canada has to stand up for its environmental process of check and balances. If this is too risky, it should be stopped in its tracks.

This federal assessment process has to be completely freed from political manipulation and influence peddling. For the sake of the health of our oceans and bounty of which will bless generations beyond us, we must do the right things when it comes to very risky ventures in oil drilling. It seems to me, that because of the depth of the water there and difficulties that would cause in containing a disaster and the risk that this drilling poses to PEI and the Gulf, this project should be rejected by the environmental assessment process under the federal laws of Canada.

Best Regards,

John

John Hopkins, 