

Natural Resources Canada

Ressources naturelles Canada

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September 29, 2017

Scott Tessier
Chair and Chief Executive Officer
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
Suite 101, TD Place
140 Water Street
St. John's, NL
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Re: Indigenous Consultation Summary – Addendum to the Environmental Assessment for the Western Newfoundland Controlled Source Electromagnetic Survey, submitted to the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board.

Dear Mr. Tessier:

I am writing to provide a summary of additional consultations and comments received on Electromagnetic Geoservices Canada Inc.'s (EMGS) addendum to the environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed controlled source electromagnetic (CSEM) survey in the Western Area of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area.

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (CNLOPB) provided opportunities to comment on the proposed CSEM survey project description (July 8, 2016), draft scoping document (November 10, 2016) and EA report (June 8, 2017). In addition, to promote transparency and provide Indigenous groups with additional opportunities to participate, Natural Resources Canada sent letters to forty-seven Indigenous groups in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador on July 19, 2017. The letters invited comments on the proposed CSEM survey EA between July 19, 2017 and August 19, 2017. During this time, Natural Resources Canada offered to organize meetings to discuss any issues or questions in relation to the project or its potential impacts.

A summary of comments received by Natural Resources Canada on the EA report was provided to the CNLOPB for consideration on August 29, 2017. On September 13, 2017, the CNLOPB provided responses to the comments raised by Indigenous groups (in an addendum to the environmental assessment report), and reviewers were provided two weeks to review and assess whether issues were adequately addressed. During this review period, Natural Resources Canada again offered to organize meetings with groups to discuss the responses.

On September 21, 2017, Natural Resources Canada, CLNOPB and EMGS met with a representative for the Conseil des Innu de Ekuanitshit. During this meeting, project details were presented, and the following items were discussed: the role of the CNLOPB and the Crown in consultations, the ability of the CNLOPB



to develop specific conditions in its decision to address potential impacts, capacity funding, and opposition of the Conseil des Innu de Ekuanishit to oil and gas development in the Gulf of St. Laurence.

No further submissions were received following the two-week comment period ending September 27, 2017 on EMGS' Addendum to the EA report.

Natural Resources Canada recognizes that several Indigenous groups hold fishing licences in the proposed project area, and may exercise rights within the proposed project area. The significance of the project area in relation to Aboriginal and treaty rights, including Food Social and Ceremonial fisheries has been noted. However, the department is not aware of any additional outstanding issues in relation to the potential impacts of the proposed CSEM project on Indigenous groups.

Concerns and interest expressed by the Conseil des Innu of Ekuanitshit and other Indigenous groups, including the Mi'kmaq of Prince Edward Island, Sipekne'katik First Nation, the Conseil des Innu de Pessamit, the Malécite of Viger, and communities represented by the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat including the Gesgape'gewa'gi Mi'gmaq governing councils of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg and Listuguj, should be kept on file and, where appropriate, considered as part of the Indigenous consultation and regulatory process regarding any future applications for activity or potential future development in this area.

Sincerely,



Tim Gardiner
Senior Director
Offshore Petroleum Management Division, Energy Sector

c.c.: Wes Foote, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Natural Resources, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Atle Lund, Operations Manager, Electromagnetic Geoservices Canada Inc.

Joanne Weiss Reid, Offshore Petroleum Management Division, Natural Resources Canada