



June 9, 2016

Ms. Hanna Janzen
Safety, Security, Health and Environment Manager
ExxonMobil Canada Ltd.
100 New Gower Street, Suite 1000
St. John's, NL
A1C 6K3

File No. 24006-020-003

Dear Ms. Janzen:

Re: ExxonMobil Canada Ltd. Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Geophysical, Geochemical, Environmental and Geotechnical Program 2015-2024 Environmental Assessment

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB), in consultation with the Board's fishery and environmental review agencies, has reviewed the environmental assessment (EA) information regarding the proposed programs as described in the "*Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Geophysical, Geochemical, Environmental and Geotechnical Programs 2015-2024*" (Amec Foster Wheeler July 2015), and the "*Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Geophysical, Geochemical, Environmental and Geotechnical Programs 2015-2024 EA Addendum and Amendment*" (Amec Foster Wheeler May 2016).

The C-NLOPB has completed its EA determination respecting the Project. The EA Report, Addendum, and Amendment, as referenced above, describes the Project in sufficient detail and provides an acceptable assessment of the potential environmental effects of the Project. We have considered this information and the advice of the Boards' advisory agencies and have determined that the proposed project, following the application of mitigation measures, is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. A copy of our EA Review Form is enclosed for your information.

At the time of application for subsequent program authorizations in the Project Area, ExxonMobil Canada Ltd. will be required to provide information to the C-NLOPB. This information should outline the proposed activities, confirm that the proposed program activities fall within the scope of the previously assessed program, and indicate if, with this information, the EA predictions remain valid. In addition, ExxonMobil Canada Ltd. shall provide information regarding the adaptive management of requirements of the *Species at Risk Act*

(SARA) into program activities (e.g., introduction of new species or critical habitat to Schedule 1; additional mitigations; implementation of recovery strategies and/or monitoring plans). If there are any changes in the scope or if new information becomes available that may alter the EA conclusions, then a revised EA will be required at the time of authorization application and/or renewal.

No later than thirty (30) days prior to commencement of the Project, the Operator shall submit a table that lists all of the environmental commitments and mitigation measures made by the Operator during the EA with the subsequent status of those commitments and measures.

The following conditions are recommended to be appended to authorizations granted by the C-NLOPB for the geophysical, geochemical, environmental and geotechnical program, as described in the EA Reports referenced above:

- *The Operator shall implement or cause to be implemented, all the policies, practices, recommendations and procedures for the protection of the environment included in or referred to in the Application and in the “Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Geophysical, Geochemical, Environmental and Geotechnical Programs 2015-2024 Environmental Assessment” (Amec Foster Wheeler July 2015), and the Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Geophysical, Geochemical, Environmental and Geotechnical Programs 2015-2024 Environmental Assessment Addendum and Amendment” (Amec Foster Wheeler May 2016).*
- *The Operator, or its contractors, shall shut down the seismic airgun array if a marine mammal or sea turtle listed as **Endangered or Threatened** (as per Schedule 1 of SARA) is observed in the safety zone during ramp- up procedures and when the array is active. The safety zone shall have a radius of at least 500 m, as measured from the centre of the air source array(s).*
- *No later than January 31, 2017, the Operator shall submit a report to the C-NLOPB describing its implementation of environmental mitigation measures and wildlife observations conducted during its 2016 program.*

If you have any questions on the attached, or wish to discuss the EA review process, I may be reached at 709-778-4232 or via email at eyoung@cnlopb.ca.

Yours truly,

Original signed by Elizabeth Young

Elizabeth Young
Environmental Assessment Officer

Enclosure
Cc D. Burley