

From: Environment Canada
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2013 2:31 PM
To: Hicks, Darren
Cc: Environment Canada

Subject: FW: 2013-013 EC Response: GX Technology Canada Ltd. 2D Seismic, Gravity and Magnetic Survey for the Labrador Shelf Area, 2013 to 2015 Environmental Assessment

Attachments: EC Response 2013-013 GX Technology Canada Ltd 2D Seismic Gravity and Magnetic Survey Labrador Shelf 2013-2015.doc

Dear Mr. Hicks:

As requested in your memorandum of 2 April 2013, Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the report (Environmental Assessment of GXT's Labrador SPAN Survey, 2013-2015). EC's previous comments on the scoping documents (submitted to you on 1 March 2013; attached) are still applicable to the report. In addition, the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada (EC-CWS) offers the following comments:

EC-01 Section 5.6 Mitigation Measures, Page 165 "Wildlife Data Collection"

It is stated that seabird surveys (i.e. standardized counts) will be conducted throughout the seismic program from the seismic vessel by Marine Mammal Observers (MMO) experienced in the identification of seabirds at sea. It is stated that a schedule of conducting seabird surveys (likely three times per day) at widely spaced intervals will be followed.

The proponent must provide more detail on the schedule for conducting seabird surveys. If all MMO's on board the vessel are conducting marine mammal surveys during seismic operations, a minimum of 3 one-hour surveys (i.e., morning, mid-day, evening) per day dedicated to seabirds are recommended. In addition, dedicated seabird surveys should be conducted during transits between seismic lines. If one of the MMO's can be dedicated to seabird surveys during seismic operations, EC-CWS recommends more than 3 one-hour surveys per day be completed.

EC-02 Section 5.6 Mitigation Measures, Page 165 "Wildlife Data Collection"

It is stated that a monitoring report will be submitted to the C-NLOPB within one year after completion of the surveys as per the C-NLOPB Guidelines. EC-CWS requests to obtain the raw monitoring data as well as the report.

If you wish to discuss these comments or have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.
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Yours truly,
EC