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PO Box 5667
St. John's NL A1C 5X1

Your File Votre référence

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BAB 3970-175

September 9, 2011

Ms. Elizabeth Young
Environmental Assessment Officer
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
5th Floor TD Place 140 Water St.
St. John's NL A1C 6H6

Dear Ms. Young:

Re: ExxonMobil Canada Properties Ltd. – Hebron Project Comprehensive Study Report: EMCP Response to Review Comments (Part II)

In response to your request dated August 25th, 2011, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has reviewed the “ExxonMobil Canada Properties Ltd. – Hebron Project Comprehensive Study Report: EMCP Response to August 16, 2001, Review Comments (Part II)”. The response is considered *adequate*; however, DFO would like to provide the following comment regarding the Nearshore Bull Arm Trajectory Model:

The overall initial comment about viewing the results with high uncertainty is still valid. While it is agreed that there is no data to validate various oceanic contributions such as inertial oscillations and non linear effects, caution is advised in interpreting where an oil spill may drift from the results. It should be noted that including more details into the simulation may change the net result. Therefore, it is agreed that although this is the best possible simulation the proponent can provide, it is possible that oil may drift onshore anywhere in Trinity Bay within a given time frame.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Katrina Sullivan at 772-0115 / katrina.sullivan@dfo-mpo@gc.ca or Sara Lewis at 772-4140 / sara.lewis@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

On behalf of DFO,

Sara Lewis
Environmental Assessment & Major Projects

cc Katrina Sullivan
Martin Anderson