



DEC 22 2011

Mr. Max Ruelokke, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, TD Place  
140 Water Street  
St. John's NL A1C 6H6

Dear Mr. Ruelokke:

I am writing to advise you of my decision regarding the environmental assessment of the Hebron Development Project (the Project) proposed by the Consortium led by ExxonMobil Canada Properties.

Having taken into consideration the Comprehensive Study Report and the public comments filed pursuant to subsection 22(2) of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act), I am of the opinion that no additional information is necessary and that there are no public concerns that need to be further addressed to meet the requirements of the Act. Further, I am of the opinion that, taking into account the mitigation measures described in the Comprehensive Study Report, the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. I have also determined that the mitigation measures and follow-up program described in the Comprehensive Study Report are appropriate for the proposed project.

I am, therefore, referring the Project back to you for action under section 37 of the Act. I request that the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board, as well as Transport Canada, Environment Canada, Industry Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, collaborate with the proponent and the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador to ensure the implementation of the follow-up program described in the Comprehensive Study Report. The purpose of the follow-up program is to determine the effectiveness of the measures taken to mitigate adverse environmental effects and to verify the accuracy of the environmental assessment of the Project.

I also request that the responsible authorities ensure the implementation of the mitigation measures described in the Comprehensive Study Report.

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The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency will be issuing, on my behalf, a public notice of my determination in this matter. In addition, the responsible authorities are required to post a notice of their decision concerning the environmental effects of the Project on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry Internet site, as well as a statement of any mitigation measures that were taken into account in making the decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Kent". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "K".

The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.