



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

Your File Votre référence

May 5, 2014

Our File Notre référence
BAB 3970-62

Mr. Darren Hicks.
Environmental Analyst
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
140 Water St., 4th Floor
St. John's NL A1C 6H6

Dear Mr. Hicks:

Re: **2014 Environmental Assessment Update Hibernia Drill Centres Construction and Operations Program (2014)**

Further to your April 22, 2014 request please be advised that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Fisheries Protection Program, has reviewed the report titled "2014 Environmental Assessment Update Hibernia Drill Centres Construction And Operations Program (2014)" dated April 2014.

The following comments are offered for your information and consideration:

- Section 1.2.1.1 Removal of Cuttings from Excavated Drill Centre (page 3) – while it is noted in this section that "...*this activity was not assessed in the previous EA or EA updates...*" Section 1.4 states that "*these activities were previously assessed under the HDMC Construction and Operations Program EA (2009).*" As such, is it better to say that "These activities, with the exception of the removal of cuttings from the EDC were previously assessed under the Hibernia Drill Centres Construction and Operations Program Environmental Assessment (Jacques Whitford 2009)"? If so, then the first sentence of Section 1.4 should be amended accordingly.
- Section 3.0 Environmental Effects Assessment (page 16) – Based on previous discussions with CNLOPB and Hibernia Management Development Company Limited (see attached February 28, 2014 letter from Jason Kelly to Elizabeth Young), it is understood that further work will be undertaken at both the Hibernia GBS and Hibernia South Extension Drill Centres to better understand the extent and effects of drill cuttings deposition on fish habitat. It is felt that this work, and its intent to provide better understanding of drill cutting deposition at the Hibernia South Extension Drill Centres, should be referenced/noted within Section 3.0 accordingly.

I trust these comments will be helpful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Darrin Sooley, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist - Coastal, Marine, Oil & Gas Developments Unit by phone (772-3521) or e-mail (darrin.sooley@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



Manager, Fisheries Protection Program – Regulatory Reviews
Ecosystems Management Branch

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Attachment



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

Our file *Notre référence*
BAB 3970-62

February 28, 2014

Elizabeth Young
Environmental Assessment Officer
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
140 Water St., 4th Floor
St. John's, NL A1C 6H6

Dear Ms. Young:

**Subject: Hibernia Management Development Company Ltd. – HSE EDC
Cuttings Deposition**

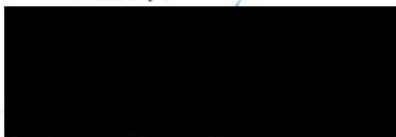
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has completed its review of the document entitled "*HSE EDC Cuttings Deposition*" dated February 21, 2014. DFO understands that the intent of the proposed methodology and program is to better understand cuttings deposition at the Hibernia South Extension Drill Centre. DFO is offering the following comments for your consideration.

1. A video recording of the areas surveyed will be included in the report.
2. The success of this monitoring plan will be reviewed after the first year and adjusted as needed to ensure the adequacy and effectiveness of the approach.

DFO recognizes that this program will be valuable in determining the extent and potential impacts of drill cutting deposition activities on fish habitat.

Should you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact me by phone at (709) 772-8889 or by email at jason.kelly@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist
Mining, Oil and Gas