



April 30, 2015

Mr. Kent Slaney  
Environment Advisor  
Hibernia Management and Development Company Ltd.  
Suite 1000, 100 New Gower Street  
St. John's, NL A1C 6K3

Dear Mr. Slaney:

**Re: Hibernia Management and Development Company Ltd. 2D/3D/4D Seismic Projects for the Hibernia Oil and Gas Production Field Environmental Assessment**

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The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) has reviewed the environmental assessment (EA) information regarding the proposed seismic survey program in the Hibernia Oil and Gas production Field as described in the *Environmental Assessment of HMDC's 2D/3D/4D Seismic Projects 2013-Life of Field Newfoundland Offshore Area* (LGL Limited February 2015), an administrative consolidation of:

- *Environmental Assessment of HMDC's 2D/3D/4D Seismic Projects 2013-Remaining Life of Field Newfoundland Offshore Area* (LGL May 2013);
- *Environmental Assessment of HMDC's 2D/3D/4D Seismic Projects 2013-Life of Field Newfoundland Offshore Area Addendum* (LGL July 2013);
- *Environmental Assessment of HMDC's 2D/3D/4D Seismic Projects 2013-Life of Field Newfoundland Offshore Area Addendum* (LGL July 2013 (Revised August 22, 2013));
- *Environmental Assessment of HMDC's 2D/3D/4D Seismic Projects 2013-Life of Field Newfoundland Offshore Area: Proposed Changes to the Project* (LGL July 2014); and
- *Response to Consolidated Comments on proposed Changes to Seismic Project* (LGL January 6, 2015).

The C-NLOPB has completed our environmental assessment determination respecting the Project. A copy of our determination is enclosed for your information.

The EA Report, 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.

At the time of application for subsequent program authorizations in the Project Area, Hibernia Management and Development Company 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, Hibernia Management and Development Company Ltd. shall provide information regarding the adaptive management of requirements of the 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.

The following conditions are recommended to be appended to authorizations granted by the C-NLOPB for the seismic survey program, as described in the environmental assessment 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 “Environmental Assessment of HMDC’s 2D/3D/4D Seismic Projects 2013-Life of Field Newfoundland Offshore Area (LGL Limited February 2015).*
- *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).*

If you have any questions on the attached, or wish to discuss the environmental assessment review process, I may be reached at 709-778-4232 or via email at [eyoung@cnlopb.ca](mailto:eyoung@cnlopb.ca).

Yours truly,

*Original signed by Elizabeth Young*

Elizabeth Young  
Environmental Assessment Officer

Enclosure  
Cc D. Burley