



December 17, 2007

Mr. Scott Grindal  
Environmental Coordinator  
Health, Safety, Environment & Sustainable Development  
ConocoPhillips Canada Resources Corporation  
P.O. Box 130  
401 - 9th Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, AB T2P 2H7

Dear Mr. Grindal:

**Re: ConocoPhillips Laurentian Sub-basin Exploration Drilling Program  
Environmental Assessment**

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The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) has reviewed the environmental assessment information regarding the proposed exploration drilling program in the Laurentian Sub-basin area as described in the "*Laurentian Sub-basin Exploration Drilling Program Environmental Assessment*" (October 2006), and "*Laurentian Sub-basin Exploration Drilling Program Environment Assessment Addendum*" (May 2007). The C-NLOPB, as Responsible Authority under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, has completed our environmental assessment determination respecting the Project. A copy of our determination is enclosed for your information.

The environmental assessment report and addendum, as referenced above describe 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, in accordance with Section 20(1)(a) of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEA Act) that the proposed project, following the application of mitigation measures, is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

The environmental assessment report and addendum provided a detailed description of the physical and biological environments up to 2007. Exploratory drilling is proposed to commence in 2009. Therefore, at the time of application for program authorizations in the Study Area, ConocoPhillips will be required to provide certain environmental 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, ConocoPhillips 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 is 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 exploration drilling program, as described in the environmental assessment reports referenced above:

- *ConocoPhillips 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 “Laurentian Sub-Basin Exploration Drilling Program Environmental Assessment” (Buchanan et al. 2006) and the “Laurentian Sub-basin Exploration Drilling Program Environmental Assessment Addendum” (Buchanan et al. 2007).*
- *The “safety zone” defined for marine mammal protection is designated to be 500 m.*
- *ConocoPhillips and its contractors shall shut down the seismic array if a marine mammal listed as **endangered** (as per SARA – Schedule 1) including the northern right whale, Blue whale, and leatherback turtle, is observed within 500 m of the airgun array during ramp-up procedures and when the array is active.*
- *A report respecting any formal risk assessment process necessary because of the proximity of any well location to known munitions dump sites, as mentioned in Section 5.2.4.3 of the “Laurentian Sub-basin Exploration Drilling Program Environmental Assessment” (LGL 2006) shall be provided to the C-NLOPB with the submission of the application for Drilling Program Authorization (DPA). The DPA application, and the report, should be submitted at least three to four months prior to the anticipated spud date of the first well in the drilling program.*
- *Drilling shall not occur within 200 m of coral colonies without the prior approval of the Chief Conservation Officer. A coral colony is defined as*
  - *a Lophelia pertusa reef complex; or*
  - *5 or more larger corals (larger than 30 centimetres in height or width) within a 100 square metre area.*

If you have any questions on the attached, or wish to discuss the environmental assessment review process, I may be reached at 709-778-1431 or via email at [kcoady@cnlopb.nl.ca](mailto:kcoady@cnlopb.nl.ca).

Yours truly,

*Original Signed by K. Coady*

Kim Coady  
Environmental Assessment Officer

Enclosure

cc D. Burley