



September 3, 2015

Mr. Nigel Carey
Geoscience Manager
MG3 (Survey) UK Limited
The Chantry, 34 High Street
Warminster, Wiltshire
BA12 9AF

Dear Mr. Carey:

Re: MG3 (Survey) UK Limited Offshore Labrador Geochemical and Seabed Sampling Program, Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area, 2015-2024 Environmental Assessment

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) has reviewed the environmental assessment (EA) information regarding the proposed seafloor and seep sampling program in the Labrador Offshore area and Jeanne d'Arc Basin as described in the *Data Acquisition and Seabed Sampling for Basin Modelling, Labrador Offshore to Jeanne d'Arc Basin (2015 to 2024) – Environmental Assessment* (Aivek Stantec Limited Partnership, June 2, 2015) and the *Data Acquisition and Seabed Sampling for Basin Modelling, Labrador Offshore to Jeanne d'Arc Basin (2015 to 2024) – Environmental Assessment Addendum* (Aivek Stantec Limited Partnership, September 2, 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 and EA 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 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, MG3 (Survey) UK Limited 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, MG3 (Survey) UK Limited 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 program, as described in the environmental assessment reports referenced above:

For geological programs with fieldwork:

- *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 Data Acquisition and Seabed Sampling for Basin Modelling, Labrador Offshore to Jeanne d'Arc Basin (2015 to 2024) – Environmental Assessment (Aivek Stantec Limited Partnership, June 2, 2015) and the Data Acquisition and Seabed Sampling for Basin Modelling, Labrador Offshore to Jeanne d'Arc Basin (2015 to 2024) – Environmental Assessment Addendum (Aivek Stantec Limited Partnership, September 2, 2015).*
- *The Operator, or its contractors, shall shut down the Sub-bottom profiler (SBP) if a marine mammal or sea turtle listed as **Endangered or Threatened** (as per Schedule 1 of SARA) is observed in the safety zone when the sound source is active. The safety zone shall have a radius of at least 200 m, as measured from the centre of the sound source.*
- *No later than January 31, 2016, the Operator shall submit a report to the C-NLOPB describing the progress, including potential environmental effects, the implementation of mitigation measures, and Inuit-specific opportunities of its 2015 program. It shall include, but not be limited to, copies of the Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO), marine mammal observer (MMO), and seabird observer reports that were produced during the program.*

If you have any questions on the attached, or wish to discuss the environmental assessment review process, please contact Elizabeth Young, Environmental Assessment Officer, at 709-778-4232 or via email at eyoung@cnlopb.ca.

Yours truly,

Original signed by Dave Burley

Dave Burley
Director, Environmental Affairs

Enclosure
Cc. E. Young