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DEC 13 2017

Our file

Notre référence
16-HNFL-00560

Darren Hicks
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
5th Floor, TD Place – 140 Water Street
St. John's NL A1C 6H6

Dear Mr. Hicks,

Re: Review of Environmental Assessment of Multiklient Invest Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Seismic Program, 2017-2026 Addendum

As requested, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has completed a review of responses to DFO comments in the above noted document, dated November 2017. While our comments have been satisfactorily addressed, we offer the following suggestions for your review and consideration.

- Response to comment: Section 4.3.1 Information Sources, page 64 – It would be useful to reference the new Table 4.2 at the end of the first sentence of the second paragraph in Section 4.3.1.
- Response to comment: Section 4.5.1 Marine Mammals, Table 4.17, pages 133-135 – As it is possible that the Davis Strait-Baffin Bay-Labrador Sea population of Northern bottlenose whales occur in the Project Area, this population should be described in Section 4.5.1.3. In the last sentence of the response, “Table 17” should be “Table 4.17”.
- Response to comment: Section 4.6.2.3 Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles, Northern Bottlenose Whales, page 156 – Text should be added to include updated research provided in comment on Section 4.5.1 Marine Mammals, Table 4.17, pages 133-135.
- Response to comment: Section 4.7.1 Sensitive Areas within the Study Area, Figure 4.40, page 160 – Note that candidate NMCA sites may have been revised; Parks Canada would be the appropriate contact to confirm locations. The proponent should also be aware that a CSAS was recently completed and a document will soon be released with an updated map/list of EBSAs (specifically for the southern and eastern portion of Newfoundland). Modifications to EBSA boundaries and descriptions may be required.



- Response to comment: Data gaps associated with Sensitive Area VEC, page 162 – Kenchington et al. 2016 should be incorporated into other appropriate sections of the EA, such as Section 4.2.1.2 Benthic Invertebrates (Deep-water Corals and Sponges, pages 51-54).
- Response to comment: Section 5.4 Effects Assessment Procedures, page 169 – A very short summary has been provided. For consistency with previous EA Reports, it is suggested that additional details be provided (e.g., see Environmental Assessment of WesternGeco's Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Seismic Program, 2015-2024). For example, magnitude ratings should be described with proportions and types of effects.
- Response to comment: Section 5.5 Mitigation Measures, page 172 – A very short summary has been provided. For consistency with previous EA Reports, it is suggested that additional details be provided (e.g., see Environmental Assessment of WesternGeco's Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Seismic Program, 2015-2024). Additionally, associated VECs should be provided for all mitigation categories.

If you have any questions or comments with respect to the above, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (709) 772-2583 [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Kimberley Keats
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