



P.O. Box 5667
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Your file Votre référence

February 17, 2017

Our file Notre référence
PATH #17-HNFL-00022

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

Dear Mr. Hicks:

Darren:

Re: *Review of Project Description and Draft Scoping Document Nexen Energy ULC Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Geophysical, Geochemical, Environmental and Geotechnical Program 2018-2027*

I am writing further to your February 8, 2017 email and letter requesting review of the draft scoping document for the above noted survey program proposed for the Eastern NL Offshore area for 2018–2027.

Please be advised that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is in possession of expert knowledge and advice related to fish, fish habitat, marine mammals, species at risk, sensitive marine areas, and commercial fisheries that may be relevant to the project environmental assessment.

Based on review of the draft Scoping Document the following is offered for your consideration and review.

- Section 5.2.5 Marine Mammals (page 6) and Section 5.2.7 Species at Risk (SAR) (page 6) – with respect to new and or updated information the project EA should note recent work completed in the Flemish Pass area that has highlighted the potential presence of Scotian Shelf population Northern Bottlenose whale listed in the *Species at Risk Act* public registry as endangered and the implications of such relative to mitigation (see bullets 4 and 5 in Sections 5.2.5 and 5.2.7 respectively) measures to be implemented especially during periods of darkness and or low visibility. The following link may be helpful <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/bottlenose-whales-under-threat-from-seismic-blasting-1.3872342>
- Section 5.2.8 Sensitive Areas (page 7) – with respect to sensitive marine areas the EA should include a description of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA) and NAFO Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) that occur within the project / study area.



Future correspondence in relation to the environmental assessment for this proposed program can be addressed to me [REDACTED] If you have any questions in this regard please do not hesitate to contact me [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist – Marine, Coastal, Oil and Gas Development
Fisheries Protection and Regulatory Reviews
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