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Your file Votre référence

April 13, 2018

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 Nexen Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Geophysical, Geochemical,
Environmental and Geotechnical Program, 2018 - 2027, Environmental Assessment
Report Addendum**

I am writing further to your March 27, 2018 letter requesting review of the March 2018 Environmental Assessment (EA) Addendum prepared in relation to the above noted offshore program proposed by Nexen Energy ULC.

Based on review of the above noted EA Addendum most of our comments have been satisfactorily addressed. The following minor comments are offered for your review and consideration.

- Response to comment on Section 4.2.4.1 Canadian (Federally) Identified and Designated Areas, Fisheries Closure Areas within Canada's Exclusive Economic Zone, pg 158 (pages 14-18 of Addendum)
 - Crab Fishing Area 8A (Southern Avalon Exclusion Zone) and the Nearshore Exclusion Zone should also be listed in Tables 2.1 and 2.2. For consistency it should be noted that there are two exclusion zones for Crab Fishing Area 9A.
- Response to comment on Section 5.3.2 Required and Planned Mitigation Measures, pg 261 (pages 18-19 of Addendum) – Representatives should be trained in identification of sensitive benthic species (i.e. coral and sponge species) and not limited to "...any coral structures..."
- Response to comment on Section 5.8.3 Environmental Effects Assessment, pgs 311-315, regarding corals and sponges (last sentence, paragraph 1, page 31 of Addendum) – The comment was addressed; however, a reference should be provided.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to review and provide comments on this document. If you have any questions or comments with respect to the above or if you require anything further please contact Darrin Sooley by phone (709.772.3521) or email (darrin.sooley@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



Darrin Sooley
Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist – Coastal, Marine, Oil and Gas Development
Fisheries Protection Program – Regulatory Reviews
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