



April 30, 2008

Mr. Jim Beresford  
Senior Drilling Engineer  
StatoilHydro Canada Ltd.  
Suite 600, Scotia Centre  
235 Water Street  
St. John's, NL A1C 1B6

Dear Mr. Beresford:

**Re:                      StatoilHydro Canada Ltd. Seismic & Geohazard Program  
                             for Jeanne d'Arc Basin Area, 2008-2016  
                             Environmental Assessment**

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The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) has reviewed the environmental assessment (EA) information regarding the proposed seismic and geohazard program in the Jeanne d'Arc Basin area as described in the "*Environmental Assessment of StatoilHydro's Jeanne d'Arc Basin Area Seismic and Geohazard Program, 2008-2016*" (January 2008). 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, as referenced above, describes 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. During review of the EA, the C-NLOPB received comments. These comments are attached for your consideration during project planning.

At the time of application for subsequent program authorizations in the Study Area, StatoilHydro Canada Ltd. (StatoilHydro) 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, StatoilHydro 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 of the project, 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 3D/4D seismic programs or geohazard surveys, as described in the environmental assessment report referenced above:

- *StatoilHydro 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 “Environmental Assessment of StatoilHydro’s Jeanne d’Arc Basin Area Seismic and Geohazard Program, 2008-2016” (January 2008).*
- *StatoilHydro shall implement or cause to be implemented the mitigation measures outlined in the Geophysical, Geological, Environmental and Geotechnical Program Guidelines (C-NLOPB 2004) respecting seismic programs.*
- *For any wellsite surveys undertaken, StatoilHydro shall implement or cause to be implemented the mitigation measures outlined in the Geophysical, Geological, Environmental and Geotechnical Program Guidelines (C-NLOPB 2004) respecting wellsite surveys.*
- *The “safety zone” defined for marine mammal protection is designated to be 500 m.*
- *Monitoring for marine mammals and sea turtles shall be consistent with the approach outlined in the Geophysical, Geological, Environmental and Geotechnical Program Guidelines (C-NLOPB 2004), and includes monitoring during ramp-up and at all times when the airgun(s) are active.*
- *During ramp-up, or when the airgun array is active, airgun(s) shall be shut down, if a marine mammal or sea turtle, listed as **Endangered** or **Threatened** (as per Schedule 1 of SARA), including the North Atlantic right whale, Blue whale, and leatherback turtle, is observed within 500 m of the airgun array.*
- *During line changes, the seismic airgun array shall be reduced to a single airgun and the airgun shall remain active during the line change. If for any reason, the airgun is shut down for a period greater than 30 minutes, then ramp-up procedures shall be implemented as per the Geophysical, Geological, Environmental and Geotechnical Program Guidelines.*

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

Enclosures

cc     D. Burley  
       E. Young