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Fisheries and Oceans
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Your File: Votre référence

Our File: Notre référence
BAB 3970-880

MAY - 9 2006

Ms. Kimberly A. Coady
Environmental Assessment Officer
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
5th Floor, TD Place
140 Water Street
St. John's, NL A1C 6H6

Dear Ms. Coady:

RE: Chevron Canada Resources – Orphan Basin Exploration Drilling Program Environmental Assessment Report Addendum

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has reviewed the document entitled, *Orphan Basin Exploration Drilling Program Environmental Assessment Addendum*, dated March 29, 2006. It is understood that this document was prepared to address all comments resulting from the review of the original Environmental Assessment (EA). Please be advised that DFO restricted it's review to the responses directly related to DFO issues of concern, as identified in DFO's January 16, 2006, comments on the original EA (letter, Barnes to Coady). DFO was pleased to see that most of it's comments were adequately addressed and offers the following points of clarification/request for revision for those which were not.

No. 1 - DFO : It is recommended that a further statement be added to clarify that that the word "typically" be removed from S.2.3.11.3 and S.7.1.4.

No.3 - DFO: With respect to the SARA Listing process, please note that it is not the competent Minister who determines whether a species is added to Schedule 1 of SARA, it is the Governor in Council (GIC). Once COSEWIC provides a copy of a species assessment to the Minister of the Environment, the competent Minister advises the Minister of Environment re content of a response statement, and within 90 days, the Minister of Environment posts it's response statement on the Public Registry, identifying how he will respond to the assessment. Within 9 months of receiving a COSEWIC assessment, GIC decides whether to add the species to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk, not add the species or refer it back to COSEWIC for further information or consideration. Within these 9 months, the responsible departments prepare a Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement in order to inform GIC's decision.

No.4 -- DFO: The Newfoundland and Labrador population of Atlantic cod was designated by COSEWIC as endangered, not special concern. Please revise.

No.16-DFO: Again, further details should be provided regarding the "dynamic assessment of the time required for the rig to suspend operations and move off location", in the event of an approaching iceberg.

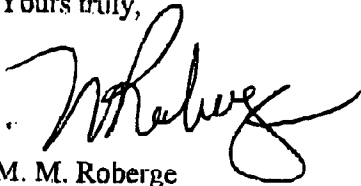
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○ No.18 – DFO: The request for provision of caveats to many of the conclusions within Section 5.4.2 of the document was not satisfied. Please revise accordingly.

No. 22 – DFO: Validated model water current fields was not used in the modeling calculations as recommended by DFO.

Thank you for providing DFO the opportunity to comment on this EA Addendum. If you have any questions or comments regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Sigrid Kuehnemund by phone at 772-0853, or by e-mail (kuehnemunds@dfw-mpo.gc.ca).

Yours truly,



M. M. Roberge
/ Division Manager
Marine Environment & Habitat Management

sk/dt