



Environmental Assessment Division
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August 10, 2007

Ms Elizabeth Young
Environmental Analyst
Canada – Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
5th Floor, TD Place
140 Water St
St John's, NL A1C 6H6

Subject: Health Canada's Comments on the Port au Port Bay Exploration Drilling Program Environmental Assessment

Dear Ms Young,

Thank you for your letter of June 22, 2007, providing Health Canada (HC) with direction regarding the review of the above-mentioned project. HC is acting as an expert federal authority under section 12(3) of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, offering advice on the human health aspects of this EA.

Regarding section 3.5.6, Well Testing, please provide an assessment of the air quality impacts of flaring and use of an on-site burner. More detail is needed than what is provided in section 3.5.9.7, such as the potential health impacts of these air emissions.

Regarding section 3.5.10, Sound, the noise levels mentioned are quite high. Therefore, more information is needed. What is the distance to the nearest receptor, and what would be the sound levels at that receptor?

Health Canada would like the opportunity to review the Spill Contingency (Spill response plan) and Waste Management Plans, before the project approval.

Please provide an assessment of effects of project operation and potential spills on the 173 groundwater wells identified in section 4.1.4.2.

Please identify if there is any local harvesting of the blueberries and raspberries mentioned in section 5.1.2.1, and assess the potential effect of spills on these berries.

In the section 8.0, assess if there are any human health effects resulting from potential spills, such as contamination of food sources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this EA. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (613) 948-2875 or by email at Carolyn_Dunn@hc-sc.gc.ca

Sincerely,

Carolyn Dunn
Environmental Assessment Coordinator

c.c. : Nellie Roest (HC)
Deborah Clements (HC)