



Regional Environmental Assessment Coordinator
Safe Environments Directorate
Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada
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File: OF6-3-28-69
December 5, 2008

Elizabeth Young
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
Fifth Floor, TD Place
140 Water Street
St. John's, NL A1C 6H6

Sent by e-mail to eyoung@cnlopb.nl.ca

Subject: Health Canada Review of PDI Production Inc. – Port au Port Peninsula Area Ocean Bottom Cable Seismic/VSP Program, 2009-2014 Environmental Assessment¹

Dear Ms. Young:

This letter is in response to your letter dated November 3, 2008 requesting Health Canada to review the environmental assessment report for the above-mentioned project.¹ Health Canada has reviewed the document based on our areas of expertise, including air quality and contamination of country foods, and is providing the following comment.

- There is no specific discussion of country foods collection in the study area. Commercial fisheries are considered to be a valued ecosystem component (VEC) in Section 6.3, however, recreational fisheries are not considered to be a VEC. Recreational fishing is mentioned in Section 8.3 (Cumulative Effects of the Project), however, it is unclear as to what level the area is used for recreational fishing. Communication with commercial fishers has been identified as a proposed mitigative measure in Table 8.1 (Summary of Mitigation Measures). Communication with recreational fishers or other site users (such as recreational boaters) was not explicitly mentioned.
 - Please provide a discussion of recreational use of the area and ensure that any recreational/subsistence fishers or other recreational water users (e.g. boaters) that may be affected by the project activities are included in any advisory/communication effort.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Allison Denning

Allison Denning, Health Canada
Regional Environmental Assessment Coordinator

¹LGL Environmental Research Associates Limited. 2008. Environmental Assessment of the PDI Production Inc. Port-au-Port Peninsula Ocean Bottom Cable Seismic/VSP Program 2009-2014. October. CEAR # 07-01-35915.

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cc: James Van Loon, A/Manager Safe Environments Directorate, Atlantic Region, Health Canada
Anne-Marie Lafortune, Senior Environmental Health Assessment Advisor, Health Canada