



January 15, 2019

Mr. Richard Price
Vice-President, Multi-Client North and South America
Polarcus US, Inc.
920 Memorial City Way, Suite 160
Houston, Texas 77024

Dear Mr. Price:

File No: 36006-020-001

**Re: Polarcus UK Ltd. Eastern Newfoundland 2D/3D/4D Seismic Survey 2016 to 2022
Environmental Assessment**

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) has reviewed the environmental assessment (EA) regarding the proposed program (the Project) as described in the *Environmental Assessment Eastern Newfoundland 2D/3D/4D Seismic Survey, 2016-2022* (RPS Canada Ltd. February 2017), and supplemental information included in the *Environmental Assessment Eastern Newfoundland 2D/3D/4D Seismic Survey, 2016-2022 Administrative Consolidation (Addendum I, II and III)* (RPS Canada Ltd. December 19, 2018).

The C-NLOPB has completed its EA determination respecting the Project. A copy of our environmental assessment review form is enclosed for your information.

The EA Report and EA Addendum, 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 C-NLOPB's advisory agencies and have determined that the proposed Project, following the application of mitigation measures, is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. We note that during the review, it was stated by Polarcus UK Ltd (Polarcus) that it is critical that effective and regular communication ensue with the fishing industry throughout the EA lifespan so that Polarcus is kept apprised of ongoing developments with fisheries in the Project area. The C-NLOPB fully expects that this communication and consultation occur.

At the time of application for subsequent program authorizations in the Project Area, Polarcus 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, Polarcus shall provide information regarding the adaptive management of

requirements of the *Species at Risk Act (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 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.

No later than thirty (30) days prior to commencement of the Project, Polarcus shall submit a table that lists all of the environmental commitments and mitigation measures made during the EA with the subsequent status of those commitments and measures.

The following conditions are recommended to be appended to authorizations granted by the C-NLOPB for the program, as described in the EA reports referenced above:

- *The Operator 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 Application and in the Environmental Assessment Eastern Newfoundland 2D/3D/4D Seismic Survey, 2016-2022 (RPS Canada Ltd. February 2017), and the Environmental Assessment Eastern Newfoundland 2D/3D/4D Seismic Survey, 2016-2022 Administrative Consolidation (Addendum I, II and III) (RPS Canada Ltd. December 19, 2018).*
- *The Operator, or its contractors, shall shut down the seismic airgun array if a marine mammal or sea turtle listed as **Endangered or Threatened** (as per Schedule 1 of SARA) is observed in the safety zone during ramp- up procedures and when the array is active. The safety zone shall have a radius of at least 500 m, as measured from the centre of the air source array(s).*
- *A report on mitigation and monitoring identified in the EA, and undertaken during the program, should be submitted to the C-NLOPB within **six (6)** months of the completion of the fieldwork, in a format that is suitable for public release (e.g. PDF). The report should include a description of the mitigation and monitoring measures identified in the EA, including those described in the Statement of Canadian Practice with respect to the Mitigation of Seismic Sound in the Marine Environment, and implemented during the program as well as the assessment of the effectiveness of these measures. The report shall also include, but not be limited to, copies of the Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO), marine mammal observer (MMO) and seabird observer reports that were produced during the program.*

If you have any questions on the attached, or wish to discuss the EA review process, I may be reached at 709-778-1455 or via email at mmoss@cnlopb.ca.

Yours truly,

Original signed by Melissa Moss

Melissa Moss
Environmental Assessment Officer

Enclosure
Cc E. Young