

**REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATORY DRILLING
EAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Session on GIS
September 11, 2019
QUESTIONS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
PARTICIPANT INPUT FORM**

Name and Affiliation: Mike White (Nalcor - Oil and Gas)

1) Do you have any suggestions on available environmental datasets or other information sources that should be accessed and used in the RA, or around key data gaps?

- Offshore Land Information (CNLOPB released Sectors, Call For Bids, Exploration Licenses, Production Licenses, Exploration Permits)
- All Offshore Well Locations
- Land Tenure Boundaries

2) Do you have any suggestions around the analytical capabilities that the GIS tool should include, related to the presentation and analysis of environmental data, and/or to the potential environmental effects and required mitigation?

- Most of the analytical functions needed were covered in the presentation of the pilot project.

3) Do you have any suggestions around the nature and format of the eventual product that the Committee will develop and submit to the Minister?

- While the GIS application is a great approach to the release of information pertaining to this report, there still should be an overall final report prepared for this study along with a link to the application produced. If for some unforeseen circumstances, there were technical issues accessing the application, the final report would still allow the process/analysis to proceed.
- The webpage for the Eastern NL RA could contain a brief overview of the study, and links to the final report, GIS application and other information pertaining to the application.
- A GIS report that contains detailed information on the datasets that are contained within the application would benefit the users along with information on the data sources, and a description on how the agency will update both the existing and new datasets moving forward.
- An “understanding the basics” user manual should be supplied with the application in both a report format and a series of short videos (YouTube) on how to use various aspects of application

4) Do you have any other input or recommendations that you would like to provide to the Committee on this topic?

- Due to the importance of this study to streamlining Exploration Drilling in NL's offshore, the focus of the agency should be on having the final report completed by the Fall, 2019 deadline!
- The application should be the second priority and should not, in any way delay the deadline set out by the Minister for this regional assessment. While the pilot project has turned out to be a great looking product, I fear that the approach taken with the import of the various sources of documentation into the application interactively linking with the layers may actually be a time consuming process and further complicate the build

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of the platform. I also understand that the software shown to the TAG representatives (Visual Command Center) is not the software that will be used for the final delivery and this is concerning in meeting final deadlines.

- In dealing with the build of the application, the immediate focus should be to outline the “Needs” of layers required to be input into the platform such that it will streamline the process of Exploration drilling. Any of the “Wants” that may have been identified in the consultation process could be entered after the initial application is released.
- In the TAG session, there was mentioning of the possibility of modelling data within the application such as Oil Spill data. I recommend that unless something is validated, it should not enter the application!
- It would be a benefit to the user to understand when updates occur within the application (updates to any given layer or new layers added). There are varieties of ways to tackle these updates such as the web portal that houses the application or possibly with a twitter style layer directly in the application that will show updates directly related to the application.
- I believe the best option for housing/hosting the GIS application is to house this system on CEAA’s website and the hosting with an external company, preferably with the developers of the application. This approach could be the near term objective (1-2 years) and during that time assess if another Internal option within CEAA is feasible.
- At all times, the application and its data/reports should live in a “cloud” environment to allow better efficiency’s for the end user in accessing/analyzing the data. The hosting company at CEAA’s request can perform all updates required to the application.
- It would be beneficial to have a small group of representatives test the final product before a go live date to ensure the performance of the application meets requirements.
- The user will need a method of submitting questions on the application and thus CEAA will need a way to address the response to the questions.
- Many Oil and Gas companies have internal software used to analyze datasets and thus it would be beneficial to allow the user the option to save the layers from the application as shapefiles, and the ability to save maps and export spreadsheets/reports.

All comments received will be considered public and may be posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry. For more information on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Terms of Use and Submission Policy, please consult <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/introduction?culture=en-CA#innovation> . For more information on the Agency's privacy policies, consult the [Privacy Notice](#) on its website: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/Protection?culture=en-CA>