



December 8, 2015

Mr. Greg Janes
Team Lead Environment Emergency Responses and Security
Suncor Energy
Suite 201, Scotia Centre
250 Water Street
St. John's, NL A1C 1B6

Dear Mr. Janes:

**Re: Suncor Energy Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Area 2D/3D/4D Seismic Program,
2014-2024 Environmental Assessment**

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) has reviewed the environmental assessment (EA) information regarding the proposed seismic survey program as described in the *Environmental Assessment of Suncor Energy's Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Area 2D/3D/4D Seismic Program 2014-2024* (LGL Limited December 2013), and the *Environmental Assessment of Suncor Energy's Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Area 2D/3D/4D Seismic Program 2014-2024 Addendum* (LGL Limited August 2015).

The C-NLOPB has completed its EA determination respecting the Project. A copy of our determination 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 Boards' advisory agencies and have determined that the proposed project, following the application of mitigation measures, is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

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

management of requirements of the *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.

The following conditions are recommended to be appended to authorizations granted by the C-NLOPB for the seismic/wellsite/VSP survey program, as described in the environmental assessment 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 of Suncor Energy’s Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Area 2D/3D/4D Seismic Program 2014-2024 (LGL Limited December 2013), and the Environmental Assessment of Suncor Energy’s Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Area 2D/3D/4D Seismic Program 2014-2024 Addendum (LGL Limited August 2015).*
- *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).*

If you have any questions on the attached, or wish to discuss the environmental assessment review process, I may be reached at 709-778-4232 or via email at eyoung@cnlopb.ca.

Yours truly,

Original signed by Elizabeth Young

Elizabeth Young
Environmental Assessment Officer

Enclosure
Cc D. Burley