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Environmental Stewardship Branch
6 Bruce Street
Mount Pearl NF A1N 4T3

May 17, 2011

File No.: 4194-10

Mr. Darren Hicks
Canada Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board
Fifth Floor, TD Place
140 Water Street
St. John's, NF A1C 6H6

Dear Mr. Hicks:

**RE: EA Report – Statoil Canada Ltd. Jeanne D’Arc and Central EAS 2011-033B
Ridge/Flemish Pass Basin Geophysical Program 2011-2017**

As requested in your letter of March 31, 2011, Environment Canada has reviewed the environmental assessment report for the above noted project. It is understood that Statoil Canada Limited is proposing to conduct 2D & 3D seismic programs in the Jeanne d’Arc Basin, and Flemish Pass Basin during 2011 - 2019.

The following EC comments stem from the department’s mandate under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA) and Section 36 of the *Fisheries Act*. Pertinent EC expertise, and related comments, also originate with the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA), the *Canadian Wildlife Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act* as well as *Department of the Environment Act*.

REVIEW COMMENTS

Stranded Birds

The proponent has indicated that they will follow the Williams and Chardine protocol for handling stranded birds.

Data Collection

This survey provides a good opportunity to collect additional seabird data from the area. CWS has developed a pelagic seabird monitoring protocol that we are recommending for all offshore projects. This protocol is a work in progress and we would appreciate feedback from the observers using it in the field. A guide sheet to the pelagic seabirds of Atlantic Canada is available through CWS in Mount Pearl.

In an effort to expedite the process of data exchange, the Canadian Wildlife Service would appreciate that the data (as it relate to migratory birds or species at risk) collected from these surveys be forwarded in digital format to our office following completion of the study. These data will be centralized for our internal use to help ensure that the best possible natural resource management decisions are made for these species in Newfoundland and Labrador. Metadata will be retained to identify source of data and will not be used for the purpose of publication. The Canadian Wildlife Service will not copy, distribute, loan, lease, sell, or use of this data as part of a value added product or otherwise make the DATA available to any other party without the prior express written consent.

I trust that this information will be of assistance in your review of this proposal. If you wish to discuss these comments or have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Yours truly,

Original Signed by Glenn Troke

Glenn Troke
Environmental Assessment Coordinator
Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
EPOD/NL

cc Wayne Barchard