



March 21, 2016

Ms. Lesa Tanner  
Marine Shore Manager  
WesternGeco Canada  
33 Thornhill Drive  
Burnside Industrial Park  
Dartmouth, NS  
B3B 1R9

Dear Ms. Tanner:

**Re: WesternGeco Canada - Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Seismic Program,  
2015-2024 Environmental Assessment**

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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 WesternGeco's Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Seismic Program, 2015-2024* (LGL Limited May 2015), and the *Environmental Assessment of WesternGeco's Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Seismic Program, 2015-2024 Addendum* (LGL Limited January 28, 2016).

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, WesternGeco 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, WesternGeco 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, the Operator shall submit a table that lists all of the environmental commitments and mitigation measures made by the Operator 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 seismic 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 of WesternGeco’s Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Seismic Program, 2015-2024 (LGL Limited May 2015), and the Environmental Assessment of WesternGeco’s Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Seismic Program, 2015-2024 Addendum (LGL Limited January 28, 2016).*
- *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 EA review process, I may be reached at 709-778-4232 or via email at [eyoung@cnlopb.ca](mailto:eyoung@cnlopb.ca).

Yours truly,

*Original signed by Elizabeth Young*

Elizabeth Young  
Environmental Assessment Officer

Enclosure  
Cc D. Burley