



National Défense
Defence nationale

Maritime Forces Atlantic
PO Box 99000 Station Forces
Halifax, NS B3K 5X5

MARL: 1262-7 (MARL SEO)
TD: 2017-000253

5 May 2017

Mr. Darren Hicks, Environmental Analyst
Canada Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
140 Water Street, 4th Floor
St. John's, NL A1C 6H6
dhicks@cnlopb.ca

Dear Mr. Hicks:

As requested, the Department of National Defence (DND) has reviewed documentation sent respecting the “Amendment of the Environmental Assessment of WesternGeco’s Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Seismic Program, 2015-2024”.

MARLANT Safety and Environment (MARL SE) has the following comments:

- Please identify a specific individual or office to serve as a Point Of Contact (POC) for MARLANT queries and concerns;
- Please ensure the appropriate Notice to Mariners will be issued for all underwater activities and any significant surface ventures, such as use of flares, buoys, and unconventional night lighting;
- Please ensure the appropriate Notice to Airmen will be issued for all activities that could affect air safety, such as use of balloons, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or tethered airborne devices; and
- Please ensure engagement of CTF 84, through Director General Naval Strategic Readiness (DGNSR), to ensure de-confliction with possible Allied submarine activities.

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Given our understanding of the survey activities to be conducted, the interaction with the sea bed appears to be low. Nonetheless, due to the inherent dangers associated with UXO and the fact that the Atlantic Ocean was exposed to many naval engagements during WWII, should any suspected UXO be encountered during the course of operations, the UXO should not be disturbed or manipulated. The proponents should mark the location and immediately inform the Coast Guard. Additional information is available in the 2010 Annual Edition - Notices to Mariners, Section 37.

In the event of activities which may have contact with the seabed (such as drilling or mooring), it is strongly advised that operational aids, such as remote operated vehicles, be used to conduct seabed survey in order to prevent unintentional contact with harmful UXO items that may have gone unreported or undetected.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Carol Lee Giffin
MARLANT Safety and Environmental Officer
for Commander