

DEC 3 - 2012

File No. 1665

Mr. Ed Drover, Chair
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
5th Floor, TD Place
140 Water Street
St. John's NL A1C 6H6

Dear Mr. Drover:

**Re: Provincial Environmental Assessment Comments for Scoping Document
Argentia Wellhead Platform for White Rose Extension**

On Oct 30, 2012 the Department of Environment and Conservation notified Husky Energy that further environmental assessment review was required and an Environmental Preview Report (EPR) must be prepared for the above project. A provincial environmental assessment committee has been appointed to prepare the information requirements for the EPR.

The scope of the provincial environmental assessment is confined to project details regarding the Argentia Peninsula and activities in Placentia Bay. This area comprises only a portion of the entire project that is currently being reviewed by the C-NLOPB, who are acting as the Federal Environmental Assessment Coordinator, for the screening level environmental assessment for which a draft scoping document has already been prepared.

My department has confirmed, through correspondence with representatives of the C-NLOPB, that a single harmonized environmental assessment will be conducted by the C-NLOPB with one scoping document to be issued to Husky Energy. This is the preferred approach to compete the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. Enclosed, please find the provincial comments for incorporation into the scoping document. I look forward to reviewing the scoping document prior to the final version being issued to Husky Energy.

If there are any questions concerning these matters, please contact Bas Cleary, Director, Environmental Assessment Division, at (709) 729-0673 or Paul Carter, Chair Assessment Committee, at (709) 729-0188 or email pcarter@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,



**TOM HEDDERSON, MHA
Harbour Main District
Minister**