



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Environment and Conservation

Environmental Assessment Division

NOV - 9 2012

Reg File No. 1665
File No. CEAR 12-01-68249

Mr. Dave Burley
Manager, Environmental Affairs
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
5th Floor, TD Place
140 Water Street
St. John's NL A1C 6H6

Dear Mr. Burley:

Re: Argentia Wellhead Platform for the White Rose Extension

The above proposal has been reviewed as required by Part X - Environmental Assessment of the *Environmental Protection Act*. As a result of this review, the proponent has been advised that an Environmental Preview Report (EPR) is required to address additional information requirements regarding the undertaking. Attached is a copy of the Minister's letter, dated October 30, 2012, to Husky Energy which refers to this decision.

The scope of the provincial environmental assessment will be confined to project details regarding the Argentia Peninsula and activities in Placentia Bay which comprises only a portion of the entire project that is currently being reviewed by the C-NLOPB. A provincial environmental assessment committee has been appointed to prepare the information requirements as per the EPR requirements.

The Department of Environment and Conservation requests a single environmental assessment be conducted through a harmonized and coordinated approach in order to fulfil the requirements of both the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). It is anticipated that the review being conducted by the C-NLOPB under CEAA can accommodate the provincial information requirements which could be included in the draft scoping document being prepared by the C-NLOPB as well as the steps of the review process as per Section 54 of the *Environmental Protection Act* and Section 7 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations. A copy of these sections is attached.

The environmental assessment to be conducted by the C-NLOPB must fulfil the requirements of the provincial review as outlined the above cited sections. These legislative requirements include provisions such as:

- providing the proponent with the information requirements needed for the environmental assessment;
- providing copies of the environmental assessment report submitted by the proponent to the Minister of Environment and Conservation for review;
- ensuring a public review occurs with sufficient time to review and submit comments;
- retaining Ministerial decision making authority on the environmental assessment outcome of the provincial portion of the project.

The Department requests confirmation from the C-NLOPB as to whether the provincial EPR process can be accommodated in the federal review process that will be conducted by the C-NLOPB.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact the undersigned at 729-0673 or Paul Carter, Chair Assessment Committee, at 729-0188 or email pcarter@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,



Bas Cleary
Director

cc Mr. Mike Atkinson, Regional Director
CEAA Halifax Office

Attachment