

December 6th 2012

Natalie Thomas

Steve Bonnell

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Attention Steve Bonnell,

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen living in Norris Point, NL and the Corner Brook area, and I am thankfully writing you today in regards to the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) for west coast NL area. I wanted to take the time to bring to your group my concerns around the impact of oil exploration and production in the Gulf of St Lawrence, specifically on the west coast of the island.

I am a strong believer in the need to have oversight and direction in the development of the Gulf region. With accurate and un-bias environmental and regional conscious guidelines for both the private and public sector development, we can be sure we are moving forward with integrity. Its good the SEA has a long term view in planning and development for the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (CNLOPB).

I am concerned about the impact of oil exploration on the place that i call home; the water i drink, the ocean I use for recreation (surfing, swimming, kayaking), the land/shore I hike and explore and the place I source my food. My relationship with the land in the west coast area is not restricted to the existing communities, roads and trails, i truly enjoying getting out backcountry camping, skiing and hiking. Getting off the trails and into the region.

I have questions about how construction, production and decommissioning phases of oil and gas exploration on the health of the communities and places I live. I would hope that through this procedure we would be able to ensure that all affects and benefits of development would be weighted with the importance of the land and the people in mind. The effects of the sounds produced during production and exploration on marine life; risks species at risk; the effect on the benthic habitat; risk of water pollution; and the effects on marine life and migration patterns. The potential risk to the of accidents with chemical and oil spill of any amount.

Recently I have heard about the potential plans of Shoal Point Energy's three onshore to offshore drill sites in Port aux Port, Lark Harbour, and Sally cove using Fracking (both

Waterless and Hydraulic types have been named). I am concerned about this practice, the research I have found that there are many concerns with Fracking in other areas around the nation. I know that both Waterless and Hydraulic Fracking have both known and unknown risks, other provinces have put this type of development on hold (set up moratoriums) until more is known about risks or policy and regulations have a chance to catch up. It would be my hope that Newfoundland and Labrador would take similar steps to ensure that proper regulations, guidelines and policy would be established before we step in to the relatively unknown practices.

At this time I was not able to find out much information about Shoal Point Energy project or a good overview of how Fracking and these plans could affect the community and area. I look forward to seeing the SEA report and its stance on Fracking technology in the Gulf coast.

Thank you for your time,

Natalie Thomas