

Norris, Sara

From: Barbara Bellows [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 11:50 PM
To: Information
Cc: premier@gov.nl.ca; thedderson@gov.nl.ca; tommarshall@gov.nl.ca; TerryFrench@gov.nl.ca
Subject: SEA report

[REDACTED]

26 September, 2013

Scott Tessier, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board

5th Floor, TD Place

140 Water Street

St. John's, NL A1C 6H6

information@cnlopb.nl.ca

Dear Sir;

It is clear from your SEA report that oil and gas exploration should not be allowed in Newfoundland's part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Fisheries and tourism are very important and should not be threatened; co-existence would be difficult. There are many sensitive habitats, vital to the health of the Gulf's ecosystem. There is considerable concern and lack of social acceptability in all five Gulf provinces. Significant gaps in knowledge remain and need to be filled.

Exploration as we know it today is not the exploration of the 1950's. Whereas early exploration was done on vertical wells, in porous reservoir rock, extending a few feet from the borehole, today, with fracking, as a changing technology, the number of wells per well-pad increases, and the fluids pumped into those sideways wells are constantly changing. Massive amounts of freshwater and chemicals are used in the process.

Although you state that the risk of spills is small, the effects of such a spill could be disastrous. A number of risks that have shown up in other areas could happen here: methane migration has contaminated water supplies, naturally-occurring heavy metals and radioactive elements have been released in the water and flowback; brine, naturally occurring in deep layers, has created a toxic spill.

Should we have a spill of hydrocarbons or toxic chemicals, who would clean it up? Our local untrained volunteers? Would the small exploration companies be able to handle the enormous cost of clean up? How would we get them to foot the bill?

In normal operations, who would repair the roads from the wear and tear of heavy trucks. Where would the wastewater and chemicals be disposed?

There are too many questions that need to be answered before exploration takes place.

Therefore, I recommend that C-NLOPB defer any new exploration licenses in Western Newfoundland, cancel the call for bids issued on May 16th, 2013 for four parcels in the Newfoundland off shore area, recommend a buffer zone for oil and gas exploration around Gros Morne National Park, refrain from giving further authorization to projects currently submitted in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and submit to public review their recommendations and conclusions prior to release of the final SEA report.

Barbara Bellows

