

Norris, Sara

From: Barb Daniell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 1:04 PM
To: Information
Cc: premier@gov.nl.ca; pm@pm.gc.ca; justinrudeau@parl.gc.ca; thomas.mulcair@parl.gc.ca; tommarshall@gov.nl.ca; thedderson@gov.nl.ca; lorrainemichael@gov.nl.ca; dwightball@gov.nl.ca
Subject: oil and gas development in western Newfoundland

September 26, 2013

To: The Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
From: Barb Daniell, [REDACTED]

My name is Barb Daniell and I live in Woody Point on the west coast of Newfoundland. I'm writing to the C-NLOPB at this time regarding AMEC's SEA report to your board, with special reference to the west coast of Newfoundland.

I am deeply concerned that the pursuit of oil extraction off the west coast of Newfoundland is both reckless and shortsighted. I am also very concerned with serious shortcomings in AMEC's SEA report, for the following reasons:

1. The report dangerously minimizes the impacts and risks of offshore oil and gas activities, as well as hydraulic fracturing, in this sensitive marine environment.
2. Important comments and briefs presented by the public in the fall of 2012 have not been sufficiently addressed, or made part of, the report.
3. The extent and value of existing, and future, fisheries and tourism industries on the west coast are far greater than presented in the report. These existing industries are not compatible with oil and gas extraction.
4. AMEC's proposed mitigation measures are very weak, and oil spill intervention capacity is absolutely inadequate. Catastrophic oil spills worldwide are well known to AMEC, the C-NLOPB board AND the people of western Newfoundland and the Gulf provinces. The oil industry may wish to minimize those disasters, but the public certainly does not.

The report DOES make clear that Newfoundland's offshore area in the gulf is environmentally sensitive, biologically important, and essential to fisheries and tourism. The report also makes clear that there are huge gaps of knowledge about how oil and gas activities will affect this biological area, and that the cohabitation of fisheries and tourism would be very difficult. The report also confirms that the effectiveness of mitigation measures IS NOT PROVEN. The Commissioner to the Environment and Sustainable Development has also stated that the intervention capacity in the Gulf of St. Lawrence is inadequate.

Because of the enormity of impact, the extent of unknown effects, and the strong, and growing, public opposition to oil and gas extraction on the west coast of Newfoundland and the entire Gulf of St. Lawrence area, I'm asking the C-NLOPB to live up to their duties to protect an irreplaceable environment by:

1. Defer issuing any new exploration licenses in the Newfoundland offshore area.
2. Cancel the call for bids issued on May 16 2013 for four parcels in the Newfoundland offshore area.
3. Refrain from authorizing projects currently submitted in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, including Corridor Resources' Old Harry project, and Shoal Point Energy and Black Spruce Explorator's Western Newfoundland drilling program
4. To submit to public scrutiny the recommendations and conclusions of the final SEA report.

In closing, there is no point in implying to the public that they are essential players in the shaping of the places where they live, if in reality, they are viewed as obstacles to oil and gas development who must be 'managed'. Yes we know the oil industry has 'been good to Newfoundland', as the Newfoundland and Labrador provincial government keeps stressing. But

like it or not, the C-NLOPB must acknowledge that fossil fuels come with enormous negative impacts, which are now felt daily around the world. Increasing oil and gas development will not change that. It's time to wake up and use other criteria besides profit.

Sincerely,
Barb Daniell

