

[REDACTED]  
September 27, 2013

Scott Tessier, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, TD Place  
140 Water Street  
St. John's, NL A1C 6H6  
[information@cnlopb.nl.ca](mailto:information@cnlopb.nl.ca)

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you with my comments on the Western Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area Strategic Environmental Assessment Update Draft Report (SEA) prepared by AMEC. I am a new resident of Woody Point, a community surrounded by Gros Morne National Park. I am a teacher and artist, having a background in mathematics, fine arts, and education.

AMEC's report contains enough relevant information to infer that C-NLOPB not allow oil and gas activities along Newfoundland's west coast. This coast has many sensitive and unique sectors which are critical for the health of the ecosystem in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The report acknowledges huge gaps in biological knowledge, which infers that the impact of oil and gas activities in the region cannot be predicted with a sufficient degree of accuracy. Tourism and fisheries are very important industries in the region, and their co-existence with oil and gas activities would be very difficult. The report also states that the efficiency of proposed mitigation measures is not proven.

Additionally, the report is lacking in information in key areas. The particular, unique geology of the region is not sufficiently taken into consideration with regards to the effects of hydraulic fracturing, one of the proposed activities. The migration of methane gas and chemical-laden fracturing fluids is a major concern. The impacts and risks of off-shore oil and gas activities and hydraulic fracturing have been minimized throughout the report. The intervention capacity in case of an oil spill is clearly inadequate.

The AMEC report is incomplete; the “Summary and Conclusion” section is blank. I am concerned that the public will not have the chance to respond to any recommendations contained within this section when the final SEA report is released.

For all of the aforementioned reasons, I recommend that the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board:

- Defer issuing any new exploration licenses in the Newfoundland offshore area;
- Cancel the May 16, 2013 call for bids for four parcels in the Newfoundland offshore area;
- Not authorize projects currently submitted in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, including Corridor Resources’ Old Harry project or Shoal Point Energy and Black Spruce Exploration’s Western Newfoundland drilling program;
- Allow official public commentary on the recommendations and conclusions of the final SEA report upon its release.

Sincerely,

T. Murdoch Wilson

CC: Premier Kathy Dunderdale, [premier@gov.nl.ca](mailto:premier@gov.nl.ca)  
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