From: EC
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 12:16 PM
To: Hicks, Darren
Subject: EA Report - ExxonMobil Canada Ltd. Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Geophysical, Geochemical, Environmental and Geotechnical Program, 2015 to 2024
Attachments: ECSAS_Protocol_English.pdf; Seabird Identification Photo Card2.pdf

Darren,
As requested in your letter of 23 July 2015, Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the report "Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Geophysical, Geochemical, Environmental and Geotechnical Programs 2015-2024 Environmental Assessment" (AMEC Foster Wheeler July 2015) for an exploration program proposed by ExxonMobil Ltd. Canada (ExxonMobil).

Please note that our previously submitted comments (sent on 19 February) are still applicable. In addition, the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada (EC-CWS) offers the following comments.

5.12 Environmental Monitoring and Follow-up Quote: "ExxonMobil will develop and implement an operational monitoring program for marine birds and mammals throughout the course of the Project. A qualified and experienced Environmental Observer will be onboard the seismic vessel(s) to record marine bird and marine mammal sightings during Project operations, which will be undertaken in accordance with applicable requirements and guidelines. Reports from these monitoring programs will be submitted to the relevant government authorities on a regular basis."

EC-CWS has developed a pelagic seabird monitoring protocol (inserted below) that is recommended for use by experienced observers on all offshore projects. A guide for pelagic seabirds of Atlantic Canada is also inserted below, for assistance in identifying pelagic seabirds in the area.

<<ECSAS_Protocol_English.pdf>> <<Seabird Identification Photo Card2.pdf>>

A report of the seabird monitoring program, together with any recommended changes, is to be submitted to EC-CWS on a yearly basis. In an effort to expedite the process of data exchange, EC-CWS recommends that the data (as it relate to migratory birds or Species at Risk) collected from the monitoring program be forwarded in digital format to the EC-CWS office following completion of the study.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding our comments.

Yours truly,
Environmental Assessment Analyst, Environmental Stewardship Branch
Environment Canada / Government of Canada

Analyste, évaluations environnementales, Direction générale de l'intendance environnementale
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