CANADA-NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR
C-NLOPB
OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD

January 4, 2019

Terry Forkheim
Senior Environmental and Regulatory Advisor
Equinor Canada Ltd.
2 Steers Cove, Level 3, Cormack Building
St. John's, NL A1C 6J5

File: 7705 N54-3/07

Dear Mr. Forkheim:

RE: Equinor 2020 *Accord Act* Environmental Assessment Requirements

This letter is a follow up to our meeting on October 25, 2018 regarding Equinor's future *Accord Act* Environmental Assessment (EA) requirements. It is understood that Equinor has an approved *Accord Act* EA[1] for drilling activities with a temporal scope of 2008-2019, and that a temporal extension may be required for potential drilling activities occurring on exploration Licences (EL) within that EA project area.

It is our expectation that Equinor's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)[2] filed with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012 EA), once approved by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (the Minister), will meet *Accord Act* EA requirements in respect of exploration and delineation drilling activities within the Project Area defined in Figure 2-1 of the EIS during the period 2018-2027 inclusive, provided that the applicable conditions in the Minister's Decision Statement are met. Therefore, a temporal amendment to the current *Accord Act* EA[1] will not be required.

Equinor will be required to submit an EA Update to the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) prior to activities commencing in any given year after a determination of the significance of effects is made by the Minister on the EIS. Each EA Update will include, at a minimum, confirmation that the proposed activities fall within the project scope of the EIS and that predictions made in the assessment are still valid.

Should there be a delay in the Minister's CEAA 2012 EA decision, the C-NLOPB plans to utilize the documents prepared by Equinor (*e.g.* EIS, Information Requirement Responses (IRs)) to make a determination for activities on Equinor held licenses included in the Accord Act EA, for

[1] 2016 Amendment to the Environmental Assessment of Statoil Canada Ltd. Exploration and Appraisal/Delineation Drilling Program for Offshore Newfoundland, 2008-2016. June 2016.
[2] Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling Program Environmental Impact Statement. Statoil Canada Ltd. December 2017.

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that interim, transitional period until a decision has been made by the Agency. We would, however, require that all IRs are closed by the Agency and the technical review of the environmental assessment is complete.

It should be noted that any determination made under the *Accord Act* does not relieve Equinor from any obligation to comply with other legislative requirements (i.e. permits, approvals) which may be required.

If you require further information, please contact Melissa Moss at (709) 778-1455 or mmoss@cnlopb.ca .

Sincerely,

E. Young

Elizabeth Young
Director of Environmental Affairs

cc Tim Murphy