CANADA-NEWFOUNDLAND and LABRADOR OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD

September 30, 2011

The Honourable Peter Kent
Minister of the Environment
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3

Dear Minister:

ExxonMobil Canada Properties (EMCP), as Operator, on behalf of the Hebron Project Proponents, ExxonMobil Canada Ltd., Chevron Canada Limited, Petro-Canada Hebron Partnership through its managing partner Suncor Energy Inc., Statoil Canada Ltd., and Nalcor Energy – Oil and Gas Inc. has proposed the construction and operation of the Hebron Offshore Development Project (the Project) in the Jeanne d'Arc Basin, approximately 340 km offshore Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board, together with Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Industry Canada, and Transport Canada are Responsible Authorities for the Project pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). Several components of the Project will require approvals/authorizations as per the following: paragraphs 138(1)(b) and 139(4)(a) of the *Canada-Newfoundland Atlantic Accord Implementation Act*; subsection 127(1) of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*; subsection 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act*; paragraph 5(1)(f) of the *Radiocommunication Act*; and Part 1, Section 5 of the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*. On July 22, 2009, the Minister of the Environment referred the project back to the Responsible Authorities for completion as a comprehensive study. The Project, as proposed, is described in Part IV (Oil and Gas Projects) paragraph 11.1(a) of the *Comprehensive Study List Regulations* of the Act.

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board, along with Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Industry Canada and Transport Canada would like to inform you that the Comprehensive Study Report (CSR) for the Project, as required under paragraph 21.3 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, has been submitted to the President of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) so that it may be released for public comment. Letters of support from all the Responsible Authorities for the submission were provided to the Agency. The letters indicated that the Responsible Authorities had reviewed the CSR and that all the factors identified in the scope of the assessment had been adequately considered and that the CSR was complete.

Fifth Floor, TD Place, 140 Water Street, St. John's, NL, Canada A1C 6H6
Telephone (709) 778-1400 Fax (709) 778-1473

Following your review of the Agency's recommendation on the CSR, and taking into account any public comments received during the consultation period, the Responsible Authorities would appreciate receiving your advice on an appropriate course of action that should be taken with respect to this Project.

Sincerely,

Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

Attachments

cc. Elaine Feldman, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Honourable Keith Ashfield, Fisheries and Oceans
Honourable Christian Paradis, Industry Canada
Honourable Denis Lebel, Transport Canada

Environment Canada | Environnement Canada

Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Environmental Assessment & Marine Programs Division
Place Vincent Massey - 16th Floor
351 St-Joseph Blvd
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

September 23, 2011

File No.: 4572-10

Mr. Max Ruelokke, P.Eng.
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

Dear Mr. Ruelokke:

Re: Hebron Development Project: Letter of Concurrence Recommendation to Accept the Comprehensive Study Report for Public Review

ExxonMobil Canada Properties Limited has proposed the construction and operation of the Hebron Offshore Oil Development Project in the Jeanne D'Arc Basin, offshore Newfoundland and Labrador. Environment Canada, together with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, Industry Canada and the Canada Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board are Responsible Authorities for the Project pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). All Responsible Authorities have worked together to conduct a single federal environmental assessment to fulfill their respective responsibilities under the Act.

Following a decision on July 22, 2009, by the Minister of Environment to refer the project back to the Responsible Authorities for completion as a comprehensive study, federal departments worked with the proponent to complete the Comprehensive Study Report (CSR). Environment Canada is of the opinion that all factors identified in the scope of the environmental assessment have been adequately considered and that the CSR is complete.

As required under paragraph 22(1) of the Act, Environment Canada supports that the Canada Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board, on behalf of all the Responsible Authorities, submit the CSR to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency so that it may be released for public comment.

Yours truly,

Laurence Davidson on behalf of Michael Wilson
Executive Director
Environmental Assessment & Marine Programs Division

cc: I.R.G. Mercer
J. Corkum

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Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Pêches et Océans Canada

PO Box 5667
St. John's NL A1C 5X1

Your File Votre référence

Our File Notre référence
BAB 3970-175

SEP 2 6 2011

Mr. Max Ruelokke
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
140 Water Street
St. John's NL A1C 6H6

Subject: Letter of Concurrence – Recommendation for Acceptance of Comprehensive Study Report – Hebron Development Project

Dear Mr. Ruelokke:

In March 2009, ExxonMobil Canada Properties made a formal submission to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to develop a fabrication facility at Bull Arm, NL for the fabrication of a Gravity Based Structure (GBS) for the deployment and use at the Hebron Field northeast Grand Banks. Several components of this project are subject to issuance of an Authorization as per subsection 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act*, which is a trigger as defined under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). As such, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is a responsible authority (RA) for this project, as is the Canada-Newfoundland Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB), Transport Canada, Industry Canada, and Environment Canada.

DFO has reviewed the Comprehensive Study Report (CSR) and is satisfied that the CSR is complete. The document presents an overview of the proposed Project and the surrounding environment, an analysis of the potential environmental effects of the Project, a summary of consultations undertaken in relation to the Project, and mitigation measures designed to eliminate or reduce the environmental effects of the Project. The report concludes with an evaluation of the significance of the environmental effects of the Project after taking into consideration the implementation of recommended mitigation measures.

As a RA, DFO fully supports C-NLOPB conveying on DFO's behalf, the recommendation to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency that the CSR undergo public consultation, pursuant to subsection 22(1) of the CEAA.

Sincerely,

James W. Baird
Regional Director General
Newfoundland and Labrador Region

sl/sp

Canada

Industry Canada
Spectrum Management Operations Branch
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September 29, 2011

Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
Fifth Floor, TD Place
140 Water Street
St. John's, NL
A1C 6H6

Re: Hebron Offshore Oil and Gas Development - Comprehensive Study Report

Dear Mr. Ruelokke:

As you are aware, the proposed Hebron Offshore Oil and Gas Development Project will require a radio licence issued by Industry Canada, and as a result, Industry Canada is one of the Responsible Authorities (RA) for the environmental assessment (EA) of this project.

The purpose of this letter is to confirm that we have fulfilled our responsibility as an RA by participating in the process that ensured the preparation of a Comprehensive Study Report (CSR) for this project. In addition, we wish to indicate that we are satisfied that the factors identified in the Scoping Document have been considered, and that the CSR is complete in this regard. Notwithstanding this, I would note that Industry Canada is not in possession of the specialist, expert information or knowledge that is necessary to conduct the environmental assessment of this project.

It is our understanding that, on behalf of all the Responsible Authorities, you will be sending the assessment to Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, which will then release it for public consultation.

If you require any additional information regarding our role in this process, please do not hesitate to contact Steve Mills, Regional Environmental Assessment Coordinator, at (506) 851-3323.

Sincerely,

John Baggio
Regional Director
Atlantic & Ontario Region

Canada

Transport Canada / Transports Canada

September 22, 2011

Mr. Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
5th Floor, TD Place
140 Water Street, St. John's, NL
A1C 6H6

Dear Mr. Ruelokke:

Re: Letter of Concurrence - Recommendation for Acceptance of Comprehensive Study Report for Section 22(1) Public Consultation

On March 6, 2009, ExxonMobil Canada Properties, on behalf of its Co-Venturers, submitted a project description for its proposal to develop the Hebron Development Project that required a comprehensive study in accordance with the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (the CEA Act). Several components of the Project will require approvals from Transport Canada under the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*. As such, Transport Canada is a Responsible Authority (RA) for this Project, as are the Canada-Newfoundland & Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board, Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Industry Canada.

Transport Canada has reviewed the Comprehensive Study Report (CSR) and is satisfied that the CSR is complete. The CSR adequately addresses the Section 16(1) and 16(2) factors detailed in the CEA Act.

As a RA, Transport Canada fully supports the Canada-Newfoundland & Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board on the recommendation to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency that the CSR be subject to public consultation in accordance with subsection 22(1) of the CEA Act.

Yours sincerely,

Maurice Landry
Regional Director - Programs
Transport Canada - Atlantic Region