CANADA-NEWFOUNDLAND and LABRADOR OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD

March 30, 2006 File No. 7705 P28-4

Distribution:

Re: Petro-Canada Terra Nova VSP Program (CEAR 06-01-18277)
Federal Coordination Regulations Section 5 Notification

On March 24, 2006, Petro-Canada submitted to the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) a project description for a proposed vertical seismic profiling program in association with ongoing delineation and production drilling operations in the Terra Nova field of the Northeast Grand Banks (the Project). The C-NLOPB determined that the Project would require an authorization pursuant to Section 138(1)(a) of the *Canada-Newfoundland Atlantic Accord Implementation Act* and Section 134(1)(a) of the *Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Atlantic Accord Implementation Newfoundland and Labrador Act*.

The attached project description outlines the activities proposed for the VSP program. The VSP program will be conducted as required in support ongoing delineation and production drilling at the Terra Nova development. VSP programs will be carried out over the life of the Terra Nova development.

The C-NLOPB has determined, in accordance with paragraph 3(1)(a) of the *Regulations Respecting the Coordination by Federal Authorities of Environmental Assessment Procedures and Requirements* (FCR), that an environmental assessment of the project under section 5 of the CEA Act is required. Pursuant to Section 12.2(2) of CEA Act, the C-NLOPB is assuming the role of the Federal Environmental Assessment Coordinator (FEAC) for this screening.

This letter seeks, pursuant to the FCR, to identify the departments or agencies that may have obligations as responsible authorities or as federal authorities and to set a timetable for conducting a screening.

Timing of Assessment

The C-NLOPB requests that the screening be carried out in a timely a manner as possible, and proposes the following schedule:

Federal Coordination Request – determination of RA responsibilities	Response by **April 13, 2006**
Review of draft EA	Response approximately 4 weeks after receipt of document.
Review of revised EA or addendum, if required	Response approximately 2 weeks after receipt of document
Preparation of EA determination by Responsible Authority(s)	2 weeks for completion (may commence during review of final EA or addendum); includes review of all drafts.

CEA Act Federal Coordination Regulations - Section 5 Notification

- Pursuant to section 5 of the CEA Act Federal Coordination Regulations, the C-NLOPB requests that you review the attached information and inform the C-NLOPB by **April 13, 2006** of your determination pursuant to subsection 6(1) of the CEA Act Federal Coordination Regulations.
- If you determine that you are likely to require an environmental assessment of the project, please advise the C-NLOPB of any approvals or authorizations to be exercised by your department or agency.
- If you determine that you are in possession of any specialist or expert information or knowledge pursuant to paragraph 6(1)(c) of the CEA Act Federal Coordination Regulations, please advise the C-NLOPB of the nature of that information or knowledge and the person to contact for assistance by **April 13, 2006**.

A "Faxback Response Form" has been provided for your convenience. If no response is received from you by the date indicated above, the C-NOPB will assume that your department or agency has no responsibility to undertake an environmental assessment and is not in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge.

Species at Risk - Section 79(1) Notification of Competent Minister

Pursuant to Section 79(1) of the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*, the C-NLOPB hereby informs the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (the Competent Ministers) that the following Schedule 1 Species are likely to be in the project area under the jurisdiction of the C-NLOPB. A determination of the likelihood of adverse affects on these species will be undertaken during the screening process.

- Endangered: Turtle, Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*);
  Whale, Blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*)
- Threatened: Wolffish, Northern (*Anarhichas denticulatus*);
  Spotted Wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*)
- Special Concern: Gull, Ivory (*Pagophila eburnea*);
  Wolffish, Atlantic (*Anarhichas lupus*)

If you have any questions on the attached, or wish to discuss the above, I may be reached at 709-778-1431 or via email at <kcoady@cnlopb.nl.ca>

Yours truly,

Original Signed by K. Coady

Kim Coady
Environmental Assessment Officer

Attachments

cc D. Burley

DISTRIBUTION:

Federal Agencies	
Mr. Don Trenholm Department of Fisheries and Oceans PO Box 5667 St. John's NL A1C 5X1	Mr. Glenn Troke Environment Canada Newfoundland District Office Mount Pearl NL A1N 4T3
Mr. Barry Jeffrey Environment Canada Queen's Square 45 Alderney Drive Dartmouth NS B2Y 2N6	Ms. Allison Denning Health Canada Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch Suite 1625, 1505 Barrington Street Halifax, NS B3J 3Y6
Mr. Bill Coulter Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency 1801 Hollis Street, Suite 200 Halifax NS B3J 3N4	Ms. Micheline Turpin Natural Resources Canada 580 Booth Street, 3rd Floor Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E4
Mr. Kyle Penney National Defence PO Box 99000 Stn. Forces Halifax NS B3K 5X5	Ms. Julie Whiteway Transport Canada PO Box 1300 St. John's NL A1C 5X1
Provincial Agencies	
Mr. Bas Cleary Department of Environment and Conservation PO Box 8700 St. John's NL A1C 4J6	Mr. Tom Dooley Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture PO Box 8700 St. John's NL A1C 4J6
Mr. Fred Allen Department of Natural Resources PO Box 8700 St. John's NL A1C 4J6	

Federal Coordination Regulations
Section 6 - Record Of Determination

Project Title: **Terra Nova VSP Program**

Location: **Terra Nova Field, Jeanne d'Arc Basin, Grand Banks**

Proponent: **Petro-Canada**

FEDERAL AUTHORITY: _____

NAME & TITLE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

In accordance with the Section 6 of the Federal Coordination Regulations, under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA), the Federal Authority identified above, has reviewed the project description and advises you of the following:

(a) it is **likely** to require an environmental assessment of the project ☐

Trigger ☐ Proponent ☐ Funding
☐ Land Transfer ☐ Law List

Law List Trigger: _____

(b) it is **not likely** to require an environmental assessment of the project ☐

(c) it is **in possession** of specialist or expert information or knowledge that is necessary to conduct the environmental assessment of the project ☐

OR

(d) additional information is required to make a determination ☐

If the answer to (d) is "yes", the Regulations require that the additional information be requested within 10 days after making the determination.

Identify the contact person for the environmental assessment, if different from above.

Name & Title: _____

Address: _____

_____

Telephone/Fax: _____

e-mail: _____

Please return via fax, by **April 13, 2006**, to:
Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board, attention: Kim Coady
Fax Number 709-778-1473