



June 6, 2001

Halifax, NS - The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) has announced Call for Bids No. NS01-1. This Call is for nine exploration licences with a total area of approximately 1,579,970 hectares located offshore Nova Scotia.

Criterion for selecting winning bids will be based on the total amount of money the bidder proposes to spend on exploration of the lands during the first five-year period of the nine year licence. The minimum bid to be considered for each parcel is \$1 million (Canadian). Subject to Federal and Provincial Ministerial approval, successful bidders will be issued an Exploration Licence for a term of nine years consisting of two consecutive periods referred to as Period 1 and Period 2. To validate the licence for Period 2, the drilling of a well must be commenced during Period 1 and diligently pursued to termination in accordance with good oilfield practice. Failure to fulfill this drilling requirement will result in the termination of the licence at the end of Period 1.

The Call will remain open until 4:00 PM, November 1, 2001. During this period the public is invited to submit written comments to the Board. The Board will undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Call which will be posted in the coming months on the Board Home Page, and will also be consulting with members of its Fisheries and Environmental Advisory Committee. The Board will review all submitted information prior to considering the issuance of an exploration licence.

The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board is the independent joint agency of the governments of Canada and Nova Scotia responsible for the regulation of petroleum activities and resources offshore Nova Scotia.

- 30 -

Attachment: Call for Bids NS01-1 Map

For additional information visit the CNSOPB website at www.cnsopb.ns.ca

For further information, please contact:

S.F. (Steve) Bigelow
Resources & Rights Manager
(902) 422-5588

Barbara Pike
Public Information/Environmental Coordinator
(902) 496-0744 - o / (902) 221-5611 - cell

For information regarding the Royalty Regimes please contact:

Bruce Cameron
Director of Communications
Nova Scotia Petroleum Directorate
(902) 424-2288

Call for Bids NS01-1 Map

