

Environmental Protection Branch
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File No: 4186-1

Data File: C:\Documents and Settings\pellerin\My Documents\BEP Co EA\2004\180 Nov 23 04.doc

Date: NOV 25 2004

November 22, 2004

Mr. Eric Theriault, P.Eng.
Advisor, Environmental Affairs
Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board
1791 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3K9

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1	ET/BU/CAP/BBP		
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Doc. Reg. No.			5598
File No.:			30,008.14 / BASA.001

Dear Mr. Theriault:

**RE: BEPCo Canada Company – Exploration Drilling on EL 2407 EAS #2004-180
Comments on Environmental Assessment Addendum**

As requested, Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the environmental assessment (EA) addendum submitted by the BEPCo Canada Company in response to issues identified by the department and other reviewers. In the addendum received on November 8, BEPCo offered clarification on several specific points raised by EC in its September 16 comments. Those clarifications are welcome. However, in certain cases, given different views on the relevance of the information requested, some important issues remain. If we spend the effort now to resolve those issues, it would go a long way toward assisting the Board in preparing the necessary comprehensive study and in advancing the regulatory review process.

In the interest of facilitating a timely and constructive exchange of information, EC recommends that a meeting with the CNSOPB, and the proponent and its consultants, be held to focus on the outstanding issues and to come to terms with some next steps. At this point, issues related to waste discharges, emissions, and interactions with migratory birds are of particular concern to EC, as well as related implications for delineation of the study area and for the mandatory consideration of alternative means of carrying out the project. EC is prepared to involve relevant expert staff in the recommended meeting and to offer some specific examples of how the necessary information could be readily gathered and presented.

We look forward to a response from the Board on our recommended approach. In terms of a suggested date, EC staff would be available to meet as early as the week of November 29. In the interim, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 426-4633 (barry.jeffrey@ec.gc.ca).

Yours truly,



Barry Jeffrey
Head, Environmental Assessment Section
Pollution Prevention Division (Atlantic Region)

cc: J. Travers
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