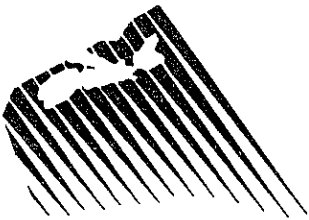


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**CANADA - NOVA SCOTIA OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD**

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File No. 30,008.14 / BA50,001

September 24, 2004

Mr. Jay Lugar  
Seafood Producers Association of Nova Scotia  
P.O. Box 991  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
B2Y 3Z6

Dear Mr. Lugar:

**Re: BEPCo Canada Exploratory Drilling Comprehensive Study**

This is to acknowledge receipt of your comments, dated September 10, 2004, on the Environmental Assessment for the BEPCo Canada Exploratory Drilling Program on EL2407. You have raised, among other matters, such issues as the removal of well heads, fisheries observers and the interaction with existing and future fisheries.

Your comments are being considered as the Board reviews all related documents and prepares the Comprehensive Study Report. The report will include a section on the public consultation process and how comments received were addressed.

You also raised the matter of participant funding, which is the sole responsibility of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, and one which the Board is excluded from any authority. However, your remarks have been forwarded to the CEA Agency for its review.

Meanwhile, your suggestion concerning the Fisheries Advisory Committee is noted, and the Board will continue to use this committee to disseminate information about projects and processes.

Thank you for your comments on this Environmental Assessment and your continued interest in this process.

Sincerely,

Eric Theriault, P.Eng.  
Advisor, Environmental Affairs

ET/jls

c.c. Derek McDonald – CEA Agency  
Phil Zamora – DFO  
Friederike Kirstein - EC  
Patrick Blanchard – BEPCo Canada  
Katherine Fleet – Jacques Whitford