

CANADA – NOVA SCOTIA OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD

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File No. 30,008.14 / BA50,001

September 24, 2004

Ms. Christine Dyer
Ecology Action Centre
1568 Argyle Street, Suite 31
Halifax, NS
B3J 2B3

Dear Ms. Dyer:

**Re: Review of Environmental Assessment Report for
Exploratory Drilling on EL2407**

This is to acknowledge receipt, on September 10, 2004, of comments from the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) on the Environmental Assessment for the BEPCo Canada Exploratory Drilling Program on EL2407.

The comments made in the EAC's report relating to the environmental assessment are being considered as the Board reviews all documentation and prepares the Comprehensive Study Report (CSR). We note that the EAC has addressed such issues as benthic habitat, air emissions, cumulative effects, environmental effects monitoring and species at risk. The CSR will include a section on the public consultation process and how comments received were addressed.

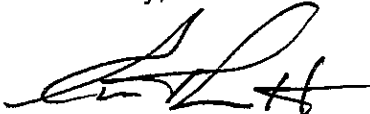
At this time, the Board wishes to point out that some of the matters raised in your review are outside the scope of the project and this environmental assessment. This includes comments that cover such issues as production scenarios, public policy matters, legislative parameters and agency jurisdiction.

Complete copies of the EAC review have been forwarded to the proponent, expert federal departments, and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency). Your comments about the lack of understanding of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, participant funding and Comprehensive Studies call for action that is outside the authority of the Board. You may wish to address these comments to the agency responsible.

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Thank you for your comments on the 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