

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

On November 8, 2006 the Minister responsible for the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency determined that a comprehensive study process is the most appropriate level of environmental assessment for the proposed Deep Panuke Offshore Gas Development Project in Nova Scotia.

Under subsection 21.2 of the Canada Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA), where a project has been referred to a responsible authority under paragraph 21.1(1)(a), the responsible authority shall ensure that the public is provided with an opportunity, in addition to those provided under subsection 21(1) and section 22, to participate in the comprehensive study.

The Deep Panuke project is also subject to joint regulatory review by the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) and the National Energy Board (NEB), through a hearings process referred to as the Public Process. The responsible authorities (CNSOPB, NEB, Transport Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada and Industry Canada) have decided that the Public Process will be used to meet the requirements of subsection 21.2 of CEAA. The public can comment up to and during the oral hearings which will start on March 5, 2007. The Joint Directions on Procedures, which are available at <http://www.deeppanukereview.ca>, provide information on how the public may become involved in the Public Process. The proponent's application, including its Environmental Assessment Report, is also available on the same web site.

When preparing the Comprehensive Study Report, the responsible authorities will consider all public comments submitted via the Public Process that fall within the scope of the environmental assessment.

For more information please contact:

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