



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

JUL 16 2004

Mr. J.E. Dickey
 Chief Executive Officer
 Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore
 Petroleum Board
 TD Centre, 6th Floor
 1791 Barrington Street
 Halifax NS B3J 3K9

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Dear Mr. Dickey:

I am writing to advise you of my decision regarding the type of environmental assessment required for BEPCo. Canada Company's Exploratory Drilling Project.

I have received your board's report and recommendation of July 7 concerning the above-mentioned project. Having taken into consideration your report and recommendation, I am referring the project back to the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board to continue with the environmental assessment by means of a comprehensive study under subsection 21.1(1) of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. Please note that the Board must ensure that a comprehensive study report is prepared and provided to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and me.

With respect to informing the public about the federal government's decision in this matter, I ask that your officials include a description of the factors to be taken into consideration in the environmental assessment of the project and of the scope of those factors or an indication of how such a description may be obtained on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry. I would also note that the Agency will be issuing, on my behalf, a news release of my determination in this matter.

I look forward to receiving a completed comprehensive study report from your board on this project.

Yours sincerely,

David Anderson, P.C., M.P.

