



File No.: NSG 002/30,008.26

April 12, 2010

Mr. J.G. MacDonald
ExxonMobil Canada Properties
1701 Hollis St
Halifax, NS B3J 3M8

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

RE: Comments on the Environmental Assessment for ExxonMobil Canada Properties' Seabed Survey for the Potential Sable Subsea Satellites Development Project

The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (the Board) has reviewed the *Environmental Assessment - Proposed Seabed Survey - Potential Sable Subsea Satellites Development*, submitted by ExxonMobil Canada Properties on March 17th, 2010.

In general, the environmental assessment (EA) report is considered well written and factually correct. The format of the valued ecosystem component analysis is particularly noteworthy as a clear and concise approach to EA. In terms of content, the CNSOPB requires that the following information be submitted to complete the EA:

- Assessment of the potential interaction with any unexploded ordinances and any DND exercises that may occur within the study area during the program timeline.

In addition, the EA was also reviewed by federal departments in possession of specialist or expert knowledge pertaining to the EA. Please see attached for comments received on the EA from Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Transport Canada. Please note that these comments do contain some corrections that are required to be addressed by ExxonMobil.

Specifically, revisions are required to:

- Table 13 and Table 19 with respect to the assessment of the potential interaction with any unexploded ordinances and any DND exercises that may occur within the study area during the program timeline;
- Section 3.6 - see DFO comments RE: program date consistency;
- Section 4.13 - see EC comments RE: Roseate Tern factual corrections; and
- Table 1.0, page 16 and page 22 - see Transport Canada comments RE: routine project emissions/discharge/solid wastes, commercial shipping and air emissions.

These are editorial comments outlining changes that are required to ensure the EA is complete in its factual accuracy. The CNSOPB requests that ExxonMobil adjust the text within the EA where the need for additional information and/or corrections is identified above, and submit these corrections as an addendum to the EA. Please note that a revised EA is not necessary.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth MacDonald
Environmental Analyst
Conservation Officer

EM/ks

Attachments: 3