



CANADA - NOVA SCOTIA OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD

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June 2, 2009

Mr. Ian Padden
Project Manager,
BEP Co. Canada Company
1801 Hollis Street, Suite 1510
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3N4

Dear Mr. Padden:

**RE: Update on the Environmental Assessment Report –
Exploration Drilling on EL 2407**

The CNSOPB has reviewed the report entitled *Update on the Environmental Assessment Report – Exploratory Drilling on EL 2407*, and has submitted the report for comment to Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada as Expert Federal Authorities for the project.

In general, the report is accurate; however, an updated report taking into account the following comments is required:

1. Section 1.3 Regulatory Context should be updated to indicate that the OWTG are currently under review by the CNSOPB, C-NLOPB and the NEB.
2. Section 2.3.1 Spill Risk and Probability should be updated to indicate that the CNSOPB spill database not only reports spills of oil, but of all spills to the sea.
3. With respect to the accuracy of the information provided within section 4.0, please see the two attachments prepared by Fisheries and Ocean Canada, including the updated information on the Species at Risk Tables 4.1 and 4.2. The revisions suggested within these attachments should be reviewed and incorporated into the revised report.

4. Section 6.0 Summary and Conclusions contains an inaccuracy: there were three spills during exploration activities between 1999 and January 2009. These occurred on 24-December-2001, and 15-July-2002 and 26-August 2004; further details are available on the Incident Statistics section of the CNSOPB website:
http://www.cnsopb.ns.ca/environment_incident_statistics.php.

Environment Canada does not have any additional comments or concerns with respect to the contents of the report.

Please submit an updated report taking into consideration the above-mentioned comments. Should you have any question please do not hesitate to contact me at (902) 496-0737 or emacdonald@cnsopb.ns.ca.

Regards,



Elizabeth MacDonald
Environmental Analyst
Conservation Officer

EM/kh

Enclosures (2)

cc J. Roma, EC (w/o enclosures)
T. Potter, DFO (w/o enclosures)