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MAY 22 2007

Ms. Diana Dalton  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board  
1791 Barrington Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 3K9

Dear Ms. Dalton:

**Re: Deep Panuke Offshore Gas Development Project - Comprehensive Study Report**

As you are aware, the proposed Deep Panuke Offshore Gas Development project includes a variety of works that may require approval from Transport Canada under section 5(1)(a) of the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* (NWPA). An approval under this section of the NWPA is identified in the *Law List Regulations* under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA), and as a result, Transport Canada is a Responsible Authority for the environmental assessment (EA) of this project, by means of a comprehensive study.

As required by sub-section 21.1(1)(a) of CEAA, Transport Canada has participated in the preparation of the Comprehensive Study Report (CSR) for the Deep Panuke project. Transport Canada is satisfied that the factors determined pursuant to section 8 of the *Regulations Respecting the Coordination of Federal Authorities of Environmental Assessment Procedures and Requirements* have been considered and that the CSR is complete. Transport Canada supports the transmittal of the Comprehensive Study Report to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to release the report for public comment pursuant to section 22(1) of the Act. It is our understanding that you will undertake this transmittal of the Report to the Agency on behalf of the responsible authorities.

Please contact Carl Ripley, Environmental Officer, at (506) 851-7561 if you require further assistance with this EA.

Yours truly

Michael R. Stephenson  
A/Regional Director General

P. O. Box 42, Moncton, NB E1C 8K6

