



Environmental Stewardship Branch
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File no. 2005-295	

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

Dear Ms. Dalton:

Re: Deep Panuke Offshore Gas Development Comprehensive Study

Environment Canada (EC) has received the final draft of the comprehensive study report (CSR) for the Deep Panuke project. As you are aware, EC had been participating in the comprehensive study as a potential Responsible Authority (RA) on the basis that a Disposal at Sea Permit may be required by the proponent under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA 1999).

While it has since been determined that a disposal at sea permit is not required in relation to the project as currently proposed, the proponent has been advised to inform EC of any project change or modification that could involve disposal at sea activities (e.g., changes to trenching methods or types of equipment used for pipeline installation). Any disposal at sea activities, which may be proposed in the future, must be assessed under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* before a course of action can be taken under paragraph 127(1) of CEPA 1999.

Beyond the department's potential RA role, EC contributed to CSR preparations as a federal authority with pertinent expertise and information. In this capacity, EC has reviewed the final draft of the CSR and can advise that it adequately reflects a consideration of the department's input.

At this time, EC can also confirm that it is prepared to remain engaged in the comprehensive study process. Specifically, the department would be pleased to participate in the review of public concerns that may be put forward and assist with the implementation of the proposed mitigation and follow-up program as it relates to the department's mandated interests.

Yours sincerely,



Maria Dober
A/Regional Director
Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
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