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May 4, 2007

NRCan File # NS-049

Hearing Order GH-2-2006
File No. OF-Fac-Gas-E112-2006-02

Eric Theriault
Advisor Environmental Affairs
Canada – Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board
1791 Barrington Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3K9

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**Subject: Review of Proponent's Response to Natural Resources Canada
Comments**

Dear Mr. Theriault:

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) has reviewed the response dated April 26, 2007, provided by the EnCana Corp. (the proponent) with respect to our department's comments on the Environmental Assessment Report (November 2006).

In light of this information, NRCan finds that the responses are generally acceptable, and that the comprehensive study report prepared by the responsible authorities reflects an appropriate consideration of the information related to our mandate. However, two of the proponent's responses require further elaboration. It is suggested that the proponent provide to the responsible authorities, for inclusion on the Deep Panuke public registry, additional details as outlined in the attachment.

Should you require additional information or clarification on the comments provided by NRCan, I invite you to contact me by email at curtis.lockett@nrcan.gc.ca or by phone at (613) 482-1444.

Sincerely,

Curtis Lockett
Environmental Assessment Officer

Enclosure

c.c. Donna Morykot, EnCanada Corporation *via email*
Aruna Dixit, Natural Resources Canada *via email*
Derek McDonald, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency *via email*

Canada



Natural Resources Canada Comments
Deep Panuke Offshore Gas Development, Environmental Assessment
Report, Volume 4
submitted by EnCana, November 2006.

Responses to April 2007 replies by EnCana

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is pleased to provide comments on the above-mentioned documents within the mandate of the department's Earth Sciences Sector.

Area of Related Expertise

Estuarine/marine environment and processes; Sediment stability and transport processes in the marine environments.

General comments:

Responses accepted.

Issue 1: Burial depth for subsea wells and flowlines; Section 2.2.2

Response accepted.

Issue 2: Stability of the tie-in facility protection structure; Section 2.2.3

Response accepted.

Issue 3: Pipeline trenching and burial depth and criteria; Section 2.2.3

NRCan is satisfied that the proponent has indicated that the pipeline will be trenched in water depth less than 85 m. However, the response (current response and NRCan-ECA-1.2) did not indicate how this water depth criterion was determined. It is recommended that an addendum to the proponent's Environmental Assessment Report provide additional information to section 2.2.3, in which the proponent describes the methodology or cites the publications used to establish this 85 m depth criterion.



Issue 4: Pipeline trenching depth and water depth criterion for trenching; Sections 2.2 and 2.3

The proponent has indicated that the issues of pipeline trenching depth and water depth criterion for trenching will be dealt with in a separate design report that will be reviewed by the Certifying Authority. Given the importance of these issues, NRCan recommends that the proponent provide additional information to section 2.3.5, in an addendum to the Environmental Assessment Report, concerning the rationale for choosing this 1 m trenching depth (e.g. the factors of waves, currents, sediment transport, and bedform mobility are considered in determining if trenching will be needed and what the trenching and burial depth will be).

Issue 5: Natural or mechanical burial of trenched pipeline; Sections 2.2 and 2.3

Responses accepted.

Issue 7: Cumulative effects on water quality and benthos; Sections 8.9.2, 8.9.3 and 2.7.4

Responses accepted.