



Ms. Diana Lee Dalton
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore
Petroleum Board
6th Floor TD Centre,
1791 Barrington Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3K9

Dear Ms. Dalton:

I am writing to advise you of my decision regarding the environmental assessment of the Deep Panuke Offshore Gas Development project, proposed by EnCana Corporation.

On June 4, 2007, you wrote to me, on behalf of the responsible authorities (RAs), the National Energy Board, Transport Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Industry Canada, advising that the Comprehensive Study Report (CSR) for the above-mentioned project had been transmitted to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency). In the CSR, the RAs indicated that the required factors have been assessed and that, with appropriate mitigation, no significant adverse environmental effects are likely to result from the implementation of the proposed project.

Having taken into consideration the CSR and the public comments filed pursuant to subsection 22(2) of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act), I am of the opinion that no additional information is necessary and that there are no outstanding public concerns to be addressed. Further, I am of the opinion that the project, taking into account the mitigation measures described in the CSR, is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. I have also determined that the mitigation measures and follow-up program described in the CSR are appropriate for the proposed project.

I am referring the project back to the RAs for action pursuant to section 37 of the Act. I recommend that the RAs ensure the implementation of the mitigation measures described in the CSR. I also recommend that the RAs implement the follow-up program described in the CSR, in order to determine the effectiveness of the measures taken to mitigate any adverse environmental effects, and to verify the accuracy of the environmental assessment of the project.

As the project proceeds, the Agency will request, on my behalf, information on measures taken to mitigate the environmental effects of the project as well as the details and results of the follow-up program. This information will assist the Agency in ensuring compliance with the Act and will help to determine whether the environmental assessment validly predicted effects. I would appreciate the cooperation of the RAs in providing this information in a timely manner.

With respect to informing the public about the federal government's decision in this matter, I ask that your officials issue a public notice outlining the course of action being taken. Please be advised that the Agency will be issuing, on my behalf, a public notice of my determination in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Baird". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John Baird, P.C., M.P.
