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CANADA – NOVA SCOTIA OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD

6th Floor TD Centre 1791 Barrington Street Halifax Nova Scotia B3J 3K9 Tel 902-422-5588 Fax 902-422-1799 www.cnsopb.ns.ca

File No. 30,008.14

June 18, 2004

Mr. C.R. McKay  
P.O. Box 1185  
Shelburne, Nova Scotia  
B0T 3W0

Dear Mr. McKay:

**Re: Public Comments - BEPCo Exploratory Drilling Program**

We acknowledge receipt of your comments, of June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004, on the proposed scoping document for the environmental assessment of the BEPCo exploratory drilling program and will consider these comments in our review of the proposed program.

The decision of whether the environmental assessment is reviewed through a comprehensive study or a panel review process, as outlined in the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, is a decision of the federal Minister of Environment. However, the Canada – Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (the Board) will prepare a Tracking Report for the minister, which includes a recommendation on which review process track should be followed. Your comments will be considered in preparation of that report.

Thank you for your comments and interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara B. Pike  
Public Information Coordinator

cc: Eric Theriault, CNSOPB  
Derek McDonald, CEAA  
Joy Dubé, DFO  
Barry Jeffrey, EC