

CANADA - NOVA SCOTIA OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD

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File No. 30,008.14 / BA50,001

June 21, 2004

Ms. Anne Smith
South West Nova Environmental Protection Group
R.R. #1
Jordan Falls, Nova Scotia
B0T 1J0

Dear Ms. Smith:

**Re: BEPCo Canada Exploratory Drilling Program
Scope of Comprehensive Study**

This is to acknowledge receipt of your comments, dated June 18th, 2004, on the draft Scoping Document for the environmental assessment of the BEPCo Canada Exploratory Drilling Program on EL2407.

The purpose of the Scoping Document is to provide a proponent with the issues that must be addressed in an environmental assessment. Your comments will be considered as this document is finalized.

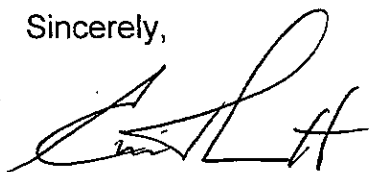
The decision on whether the environmental assessment is reviewed through a comprehensive study or a panel review process, as outlined in the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, is the decision of the federal Minister of Environment. However, the Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (the Board) will prepare a report for the minister, discussing the scope of the project, the public comments received and the ability of the comprehensive study to address issues related the BEPCo's proposed project. Your comments will be considered in preparation of that report.

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In either case, the environmental assessment will be made public through the Board's website and comments sought from interested parties. In addition, the Minister's decision and details of the public consultation will be announced. You will be able to follow the progress of this process through our website www.cnsopb.ns.ca or by contacting our offices.

Thank you for your comments and interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric L. Theriault', written in a cursive style.

Eric L. Theriault
Advisor, Environmental Affairs

ELT/mes

cc. Derek McDonald – CEA Agency
Phil Zamora – DFO
Friederike Kirstein - EC
Patrick Blanchard – Bass Enterprises