

CANADA – NOVA SCOTIA OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD

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File No.: 30,008.14 / BA50,001

June 21, 2004

Mr. Roger Hunka
Netukulimkewe'l Commission
PO Box 1320
172 Truro Heights Rd.
Truro, NS B2N 5N2

Dear Mr. Hunka:

**RE: BEPCo Canada Exploratory Drilling on EL2407 –
Scope of Comprehensive Study**

This is to acknowledge receipt of your comments, dated June 16, 2004, on the draft Scoping Document for the environmental assessment of the BEPCo Canada Exploratory Drilling Program on EL2407. Your request to include a fifth bullet under subsection 16 (1) will be considered as the Scoping Document is finalized.

The purpose of the Scoping Document is to provide an operator with the issues that must be addressed in an environmental assessment. The Canada – Nova Scotia Benefits Plan, which is required with an application for authorization to conduct any petroleum work offshore Nova Scotia, is not part of the environmental assessment.

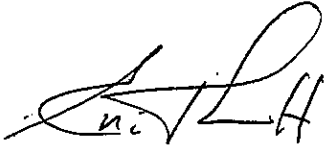
Under the Accord legislation, benefits plans must be filed and approved prior to the granting of an activity or work authorization. Such plans are subject to a separate regulatory review process and are not included in the environmental assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

In addition, such benefits plans are not subject to a public review, but are part of the Board's review of all documents submitted in support of an application. However, your comments on benefits matters are now on the public record and may be considered when, and if, a benefits plan is submitted to the Board.

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Thank you for your comments on the Scoping Document.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Theriault', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric Theriault
Advisor, Environmental Affairs

ET/mes

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