



**Renewal of Memorandum of
Understanding**

Between:

**The Canada - Nova Scotia
Offshore Petroleum Board**

and

Environment Canada

(“Parties”)

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) entered into (a copy of which is attached hereto as Schedule A) between the Parties on March 31, 1999 is hereby renewed for a period of 10 years from the date of signature.

For greater certainty, in accordance with section 7.1 of the MOU, either party may terminate the MOU with a minimum of 30 days written notice.

The MOU may be further renewed prior to the expiry of this renewal if the Parties so agree.



**Renouvellement du protocole
d’entente**

entre

**l’Office Canada - Nouvelle-Écosse
des hydrocarbures
extracôtiers**

et

Environnement Canada

(« les parties »)

Le protocole d’entente (« PE ») (voir Annexe A ci-jointe) passé entre les parties le 31 mars 1999 est par le présent document renouvelé pour une période de dix ans à compter de la date de signature.

Il est entendu, conformément au paragraphe 7.1 du PE, que l’une ou l’autre des parties peut résilier le PE sous réserve d’un préavis écrit d’au moins 30 jours.

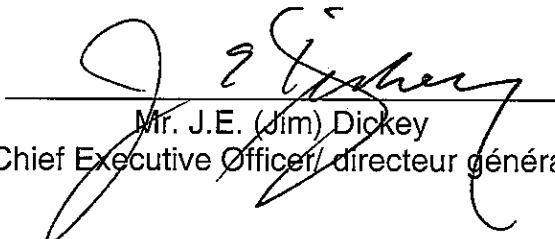
Le PE peut être renouvelé avant la date d’expiration du présent renouvellement si les parties en conviennent.

Approvals/Autorisations

signed at/signé Halifax on the/le 15th day of/jour de (d') September,
2003


for/au nom de:




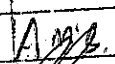


**Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board/
l'Office Canada – Nouvelle-Écosse des hydrocarbures extracôtiers**


Mr. J.E. (Jim) Dickey
Chief Executive Officer/ directeur général

for/au nom de:

Environment Canada/Environnement Canada


Mr. Garth Bangay
Regional Director General/ directeur général régional

Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board	
ADMINISTRATION	
OPERATIONS	
LLEGAL	
RESOURCES	
ENVIRONMENTAL	
BENEFITS	

SCHEDULE "A"

Memorandum of Understanding

Protocole d'entente

Between:

The Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore
Petroleum Board
and
Environment Canada

entre:

L'Office Canada – Nouvelle-Écosse des
hydrocarbures extracôtiers
et
Environnement Canada

1.0 Preamble

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into pursuant to section 46 of the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act and section 50 of the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation (Nova Scotia) Act to ensure effective coordination of work and activities by the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) and Environment Canada (EC) in relation to petroleum activities in the Nova Scotia offshore area.

The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board was created by provincial and federal legislation to regulate oil and gas development in Nova Scotia's offshore. The Board's mandate includes safety, environmental protection, resource conservation, Canada-Nova Scotia benefits, rights management and the maintenance of data archives. In addition, the legislation requires the CNSOPB to conclude memoranda of understanding with other government departments and agencies to ensure effective co-ordination and avoid duplication.

Environment Canada is a science-based federal department whose goal is to make

1.0 Préambule

Le présent protocole d'entente est conclu en vertu de l'article 46 de la *Loi de mise en oeuvre de l'Accord Canada-Nouvelle-Écosse sur les hydrocarbures extracôtiers* et de l'article 50 de la *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation (Nova Scotia) Act*. Il vise à permettre une bonne coordination des travaux et activités de l'Office Canada – Nouvelle-Écosse des hydrocarbures extracôtiers (OCNHE) et d'Environnement Canada (EC) en ce qui concerne les hydrocarbures extracôtiers de la Nouvelle-Écosse.

L'Office Canada – Nouvelle-Écosse des hydrocarbures extracôtiers a été créé en vertu de lois fédérale et provinciale, dans le but de régir la mise en valeur du pétrole et du gaz au large de la Nouvelle-Écosse. Le mandat de l'Office englobe la sécurité, la protection de l'environnement, la conservation des ressources, les retombées Canada-Nouvelle-Écosse, la gestion des droits et la tenue des archives de données. Les lois précitées exigent de l'OCNHE qu'il conclue des protocoles d'entente avec des ministères et d'autres organismes gouvernementaux pour établir avec eux une bonne coordination des activités et éviter les doubles emplois.

Environnement Canada est un ministère à vocation scientifique, chargé de faire du

sustainable development a reality. EC has legislated mandates in areas of environmental protection, migratory bird management, biodiversity, conservation, weather and environmental prediction that apply to the activities of the offshore oil and gas industry.

2.0 Purpose

The intent of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to facilitate and promote protection of the environment during the exploration, development, production and abandonment phases of offshore petroleum resource activities.

3.0 Objectives

This MOU builds on the established roles and responsibilities of EC and CNSOPB relative to offshore petroleum activities and provides a mechanism for CNSOPB and EC to work cooperatively to meet the shared objective of environmental protection.

Specifically this MOU is to enable cooperation between CNSOPB and EC to:

- a) efficiently and effectively use available resources to address environmental protection issues;
- b) identify priorities and/or emerging issues which may affect the regulation of offshore oil and gas resources and address gaps in policy, regulatory regimes and science and technology programs to ensure that the highest standards of environmental protection and conservation are applied;
- c) enable the best use of knowledge and of jurisdictional authorities to ensure

développement durable une réalité. La loi lui confère des mandats dans les domaines de la protection de l'environnement, de la gestion des oiseaux migrateurs, de la biodiversité, de la conservation et des prévisions météorologiques et environnementales, qui s'appliquent aux activités de l'industrie des hydrocarbures extracôtiers.

2.0 But

Le présent protocole d'entente vise à faciliter et à promouvoir la protection de l'environnement durant les phases de prospection, de mise en valeur, de production et d'abandon des opérations associées aux hydrocarbures extracôtiers.

3.0 Objectifs

Le présent protocole d'entente prend appui sur les responsabilités et rôles établis d'EC et de l'OCNHE en matière d'hydrocarbures extracôtiers; il donne à ces organisations un mécanisme leur permettant d'oeuvrer en coopération à la réalisation de leur objectif commun de protection de l'environnement.

En particulier, ce protocole d'entente permettra à l'OCNHE et à EC de collaborer aux fins suivantes:

- a) utiliser avec efficacité et efficience les ressources disponibles pour résoudre les problèmes de protection de l'environnement;
- b) cerner les priorités et les problèmes nouveaux susceptibles d'influer sur la réglementation des activités liées aux hydrocarbures extracôtiers et combler les lacunes dans les politiques, la réglementation et les programmes scientifiques et technologiques pour que soient appliquées les plus hautes normes de protection de

that offshore petroleum developments proceed in accordance with legislative and regulatory regimes;

- d) encourage and enable the adoption of the precautionary principle in regards to environmental protection with an emphasis on pollution prevention;
- e) encourage collaboration to improve the sharing of information and transfer of knowledge between industry, academia, government agencies, and other organizations so as to address environmental priorities relating to oil and gas developments.

l'environnement;

- c) permettre la meilleure utilisation possible des connaissances et des pouvoirs pour faire en sorte que la mise en valeur des hydrocarbures extracôtiers soit conforme aux lois et aux règlements;
- d) encourager et permettre l'adoption du principe de la prudence dans la protection de l'environnement, l'accent étant mis sur la prévention de la pollution;
- e) encourager la collaboration pour améliorer le partage de l'information et le transfert des connaissances entre l'industrie, les milieux universitaires, les organismes gouvernementaux et d'autres organismes, afin de traiter des priorités environnementales dans la mise en valeur des hydrocarbures.

4.0 Principles of Cooperation

The following principles will guide the actions of CNSOPB and EC:

4.1 Sustainable Development:

Development shall be such that it meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Such development shall be viewed within a social, environmental and economic context and with weight given to a long term view.

4.2 Pollution Prevention:

The environmental and economic benefits of processes, practices and materials that avoid or minimize the creation of pollutants and wastes shall be recognized and practiced.

4.0 Principes de coopération

Les interventions de l'OCNHE et d'EC seront guidées par les principes suivants :

4.1 Développement durable:

Le développement doit permettre de répondre aux besoins actuels, sans compromettre les possibilités pour les générations futures de répondre à leurs propres besoins. Il doit être envisagé dans un contexte social, environnemental et économique, et doit s'inscrire autant que possible dans une perspective à long terme.

4.2 Prévention de la pollution:

On favorisera les retombées environnementales et économiques des processus, méthodes et matériaux qui évitent ou réduisent la création de polluants et de déchets.

4.3 Precautionary Principle:

The uncertain and incomplete nature of science relating to the environment invokes the precautionary principle where it is necessary to exercise caution in adopting standards for all development. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

5.0 Areas for Cooperation

Under this MOU, CNSOPB and EC will cooperate in:

- a) reviewing and assessing proposed projects in accordance with the applicable legislation and/or policies;
- b) reviewing and recommending regulations, guidelines and environmental management practices including chemical use management and waste discharges;
- c) developing policies, procedures, coordinating mechanisms and auditing provisions for inspection; investigation, and enforcement activities;
- d) incident reporting and emergency response;
- e) designing programs to monitor environmental effects of offshore oil and gas activities on marine and coastal ecosystems and interpreting monitoring results;
- f) providing timely and accurate weather, sea and ice-state forecasts;
- g) promoting technology development and pollution prevention approaches including those associated with waste management activities; and
- h) development and delivery of training.

4.3 Principe de la prudence:

L'incertitude et les lacunes de la science de l'environnement militent en faveur de la prudence, car il est nécessaires d'agir avec précaution dans l'adoption de normes de mise en valeur des ressources. Lorsqu'il y a menace de dangers graves ou irréversibles, l'absence de certitude scientifique totale ne doit pas constituer une raison pour surseoir à des mesures économiques permettant d'empêcher la dégradation de l'environnement.

5.0 Domaines de coopération

Aux termes du présent protocole, l'OCNHE et EC coopéreront dans les domaines suivants:

- a) étude et évaluation des opérations proposées par rapport aux lois et politiques applicables;
- b) étude des règlements, lignes directrices et méthodes de gestion de l'environnement, notamment de gestion des produits chimiques et de rejet des déchets;
- c) élaboration de politiques, façons de procéder, mécanismes de coordination et modalités de vérification concernant les inspections, les enquêtes et l'application de la loi;
- d) rapports d'accident et interventions d'urgence;
- e) conception de programme de surveillance des effets environnementaux des activités liées aux hydrocarbures extracôtiers sur les écosystèmes marins et côtiers, et interprétation des résultats de la surveillance;
- f) fourniture de prévisions exactes, en temps opportun, sur les conditions météorologiques, l'état de la mer et l'état des glaces;

- g) promotion des progrès technologiques et des stratégies de prévention de la pollution, y compris celles qui sont associées à la gestion des déchets;
- h) élaboration et exécution de programmes de formation.

6. Coordination of MOU implementation

6.1 An Executive Committee, co-chaired by the Chief Executive Officer of CNSOPB, and the Regional Director General of EC, will be responsible for achieving the objectives of this MOU. The Executive Committee will approve an annual work plan and progress report and will meet at least once a year. The annual work plan will identify the priority issues and projects to be carried out cooperatively, expected outcomes and timelines.

6.2 An Implementation Committee co-chaired by representatives of EC and CNSOPB appointed by the Executive Committee and consisting of an equal number of representatives from CNSOPB and EC will be responsible for preparing and implementing the work plan and for reporting to the Executive Committee.

6.3 The Implementation Committee:

- a) will report to the Executive Committee;
- b) will consist of not less than two members;
- c) may establish working groups and/or sub-committees as required to implement activity pursuant to the MOU;
- d) will meet at least annually;
- e) will prepare an annual work plan outlining priorities for action for the

6. Coordination de la mise en oeuvre du protocole d'entente

6.1 Un Comité d'administration, coprésidé par le directeur général de l'OCNHE et par le directeur général régional d'EC, sera responsable de la réalisation des objectifs du protocole d'entente. Il approuvera un plan de travail et un rapport d'étape annuels, et se réunira au moins une fois l'an. Le plan de travail annuel définira les dossiers et activités prioritaires devant être traités en coopération, ainsi que les résultats escomptés et les échéanciers.

6.2 Un Comité de mise en oeuvre, coprésidé par des représentants d'EC et de l'OCNHE nommés par le Comité d'administration et comptant un nombre égal de représentants des deux organismes, sera chargé d'établir et de mettre en oeuvre le plan de travail, et d'en rendre compte au Comité d'administration.

6.3 Le Comité de mise en oeuvre devra remplir les conditions suivantes:

- a) il rendra compte au Comité d'administration;
- b) il se composera d'au moins deux membres;
- c) au besoin, il pourra créer des groupes de travail et des sous-comités pour mettre en oeuvre des activités découlant du protocole d'entente;
- d) il se réunira au moins une fois l'an;
- e) il rédigera un plan de travail annuel

coming year;
f) will prepare an annual progress report.

décrivant les activités prioritaires pour
l'année à venir;
f) il rédigera un rapport d'étape annuel.

6.4 The CNSOPB's Environmental Coordinating Committee will be a principal mechanism for discussing and coordinating these cooperative activities between EC and the CNSOPB.

6.4 Le Comité de coordination environnementale de l'OCNHE sera un des principaux mécanismes de discussion et de coordination des activités exécutées en coopération par EC et l'OCNHE.

7.0 Terms of the Memorandum of Understanding

7.0 Conditions du protocole d'entente

7.1 Duration and Termination:

7.1 Durée et cessation:

This Memorandum will be in effect from the date of signature for a period of three years at which time it will be reviewed and renewed prior to the expiry date if appropriate. Either party may terminate the MOU with a minimum of 30 days written notice.

Le protocole d'entente prendra effet à la date de sa signature et restera en vigueur pendant trois ans. Il sera réexaminé et, s'il y a lieu, renouvelé avant la date de son expiration. Chaque partie peut mettre fin au protocole d'entente, moyennant un préavis écrit de 30 jours.

7.2 Annexes:

7.2 Annexes:

Any document describing any arrangement hereafter concluded between CNSOPB and EC may be annexed to, and become part of, this MOU.

Tout document décrivant une entente conclue ultérieurement entre l'OCNHE et EC pourra être annexé au protocole d'entente, dont il fera alors intégralement partie.

7.3 Amendment:

7.3 Modifications:

The MOU may be amended or supplemented, prior to the expiry date as may be mutually agreed upon by both parties.

Des modifications ou ajouts peuvent être apportés au protocole d'entente, avant la date d'expiration de celui-ci, sur consentement mutuel des deux parties.

7.4 Governance:

7.4 Régie interne:

If organizational changes to either party occur, initiatives pursuant to this MOU will be adjusted as appropriate.

Si l'une quelconque des deux parties fait l'objet de changements organisationnels, les activités découlant

du présent protocole d'entente seront modifiées en conséquence.

8.0 General Conditions

It is further understood that:

- a) CNSOPB shall be the lead agency in matters pertaining to oil and gas activities in the Nova Scotia offshore area including exploration, development and production.
- b) EC retains its responsibility and accountability for the proper administration of the *Fisheries Act* (Section 36), the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, the *Canada Wildlife Act*, and the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*.
- c) EC retains its responsibility under Canadian Environmental Assessment Act for ensuring environmental assessments are conducted in relation to project proposals involving departmental decision-making and for taking a course of action based on assessment results.
- d) Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as creating any duty, granting any power, requiring the allocation of resources, or preventing either party from exercising its mandate.

8.0 Conditions générales

Il est par ailleurs convenu de ce qui suit:

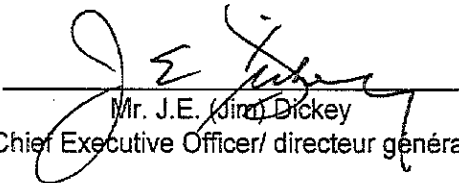
- a) l'OCNHE sera le principal responsable des questions liées aux hydrocarbures extracôtiers de la Nouvelle-Écosse, y compris en ce qui a trait aux travaux de prospection, de mise en valeur et de production.
- b) EC conserve la responsabilité de la bonne administration de la *Loi sur les pêches* (article 36), de la *Loi sur la Convention concernant les oiseaux migrateurs*, de la *Loi sur la faune du Canada* et de la *Loi canadienne sur la protection de l'environnement*.
- c) EC conserve la responsabilité qui lui est conférée par la *Loi canadienne sur l'évaluation environnementale* en ce qui concerne l'exécution d'évaluations environnementales des projets qui font appel à des décisions ministérielles et la mise en oeuvre d'un plan d'action conforme aux résultats de l'évaluation.
- d) Aucune disposition du présent protocole ne doit être interprétée comme créant une obligation, conférant un pouvoir, exigeant l'affectation de ressources ou empêchant l'une ou l'autre partie de s'acquitter de son mandat.

Approvals/Autorisations

signed at/signé Halifax on the/le 31st day of/jour de (d') March, 1999

for/au nom de:

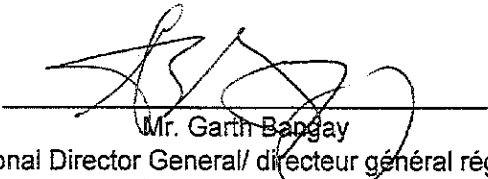
**Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board/
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Mr. J.E. (Jim) Dickey
Chief Executive Officer/ directeur général



for/au nom de:

Environment Canada/Environnement Canada


Mr. Garth Bangay
Regional Director General/ directeur général régional



Revised: December 22, 1999

Annex A: CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR SPILLS

PREFACE

This document is an Annex to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) and Environment Canada (EC) on the regulation of petroleum activities in the Nova Scotia offshore. The Annex is the principle deliverable for Project 5, Contingency Planning for Spills, of the 1999 Work Plan to the MOU. The Project's goal is to establish a cooperative approach to responding to offshore spills, including a description of the role of the Regional Environmental Emergencies Team (REET). This document will also support Project 3, Compliance Policy, of the 1999 Work Plan, since many compliance issues are related to accidental spills.

INTRODUCTION

Offshore oil and gas exploration, development and production may result in the accidental release of substances which could have an adverse impact on the marine environment. The timely reporting of incidents is an important mechanism which facilitates spill response and the undertaking of corrective action to avoid re-occurrence. EC and CNSOPB will cooperate in the review of existing reporting and follow-up processes to identify opportunities for improvement which may result in a higher level of protection of the environment. Areas of collaboration include: joint reporting requirements, investigation of incidents, the role of REET, contingency planning including both spill and wildlife response, and developing and presenting spill response training for CNSOPB officers.

The objective of this Annex is to define joint mechanisms and practices for delivering environmental protection measures related to accidental spills or releases of oil or other hazardous materials above authorized levels to the environment. More specifically, this Annex establishes the respective roles, and approach for EC and CNSOPB to work together during such spills, and defines the role of REET in the delivery of advice during environmental emergencies.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

An environmental emergency is defined as a sudden, unexpected introduction into the air, water or land, of a pollutant in sufficient quantity to cause or be capable of causing serious damage to the environment or to endanger human health because of its presence in the environment.

The CNSOPB is the lead agency for regulating activities associated with the exploration, development, and production of offshore oil and gas. This authority is provided under identical federal and provincial Offshore Accord legislation. Section 153 of the *Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act* empowers the Board to prohibit the introduction of substances into the environment, or to authorize the discharge of specific quantities of a substance. Section 166(1) of the Act states that “no person shall cause or permit a spill on or from any portion of the offshore area”, Section 166(2) provides for the mandatory reporting of a spill, and Section 166(4) provides authority for the CNSOPB to take or direct action that is necessary to cleanup a spill.

Under normal circumstances, EC is a resource agency to the CNSOPB during these events. EC, however, has mandated authority to respond to spills and releases of petroleum and other hazardous materials under the Fisheries Act, the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, and the Migratory Birds Convention Act. EC retains its responsibility to apply federal regulations when it is deemed that the Board’s regulations are insufficient to deal with the issue, are not being applied to the extent required to correct or mitigate the practice, or after consultation with the CNSOPB, both agencies agree that the application of federal regulations is more appropriate.

Although the Board has jurisdiction over pollution emanating from activities in the offshore area, the Coast Guard has jurisdiction in respect to the cleanup of pollution caused by ships (such as seismic vessels, any vessels outside of the ‘safety zone’ and rigs/platforms during transit. The safety zone is generally defined as an exclusion area adjacent to drilling rigs and production platforms.)

Notification

The Board requires all Operators to report any accidental spill or release of oil or other hazardous material, or any operational discharges which are above allowable limits set by the Board.

The Board will require operators to immediately report all such incidents to the CNSOPB and the Canadian Coast Guard Operations Centre (CCGOC). The CCGOC has been identified as the primary recipient of spill reports in the Maritimes region, and will disseminate the reports to all other appropriate government agencies, including Environment Canada.

As much detail as possible should be included in the spill report, including:

- time spill was observed;
- who is reporting the spill, their address, and telephone number;
- source and cause of the spill;
- what is the product which has been spilled;
- size/volume of the spill;
- time and duration of the spill;
- area/environment affected;
- mobility of the spill;
- weather, water or geographic conditions at the spill site;
- action being taken to contain or control the spill;
- personnel at the scene of the spill;
- resources threatened: water supply, bird colony, fish, recreational facilities, water intake, etc.;
- other agencies contacted; and
- any other pertinent information.

Follow-up reports, when required, may include additional details on the above information as well as:

- information on preventing the accident from re-occurring;
- any compliance or enforcement action (this information would be provided in a follow-up report from either EC or the CNSOPB).

Timing of reporting will be as follows:

- spill reports - immediately;
- follow-up - preliminary report within 24 hr;
- written reports - when required, written reports will be submitted within 14 days.

CNSOPB is the lead agency for requesting and following-up on spill information from the polluter. EC, however, reserves the right to directly contact the polluter for information. EC will notify CNSOPB when it takes this course of action.

Liaison During A Significant Incident

In the event of a significant emergency incident:

(a) The Board will establish a committee of senior federal and provincial officials as outlined in the Board's Emergency Response Plan. Members of this Senior Advisory Committee will be drawn from those government agencies, including EC, that are judged to have a direct interest, or have expertise, in the management and resolution of the incident or for the protection of threatened resources. The purpose of this committee is to ensure that senior managers of member agencies are kept fully informed about all matters pertaining to the management of the emergency incident in order to enable them to offer assistance, resources and policy advice to the Board.

(b) At the request of CNSOPB, EC will assemble and chair the Regional Environmental Emergency Team (REET) to provide advice on environmental, scientific and technical matters. This information and advice will be provided to the Board through the REET chair or designate.

Inspection and Investigation

The CNSOPB is responsible for the investigation of spill events. In cooperation with the Board, EC may either conduct their own inspection, monitoring and investigation, or may conduct in a joint investigation with the CNSOPB. The Board will assist EC personnel with logistics for transportation to the spill site. EC will ensure that one or more of its officers is fully trained for helicopter transportation to offshore installations (i.e. BST and WHMIS).

Spill Treating Agents

The CNSOPB and EC both have legislated authority regarding the use of dispersants for mitigating oil spills from offshore petroleum facilities. The CNSOPB and EC will jointly review any requests from operators for approval to use dispersants, in consultation with REET partners. A decision to approve the use of dispersants and conditions for their approval must be agreed to by both parties.

If spill treating agents are approved, EC may monitor their application and effectiveness. CNSOPB will arrange the logistics for the transportation of EC personnel.

Contingency Plans and Exercises

Spill contingency plans are required from potential operators before an activity can be authorized by the Board. Environment Canada will review contingency plans submitted to the Board by project proponents, and will provide advice to the Board with respect to mandated areas, including the role of REET.

Frequently the most ecologically important impact from an offshore spill is on marine birds. To minimize damage to sensitive marine resources from spills, the Board will facilitate discussions between Canadian Wildlife Service and offshore operators to develop effective site-specific wildlife response plans.

The Board will invite EC and the REET to participate in environmental emergency exercises conducted for or by the Board.

THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY TEAM (REET)

Regional Environmental Emergency Teams are part of the Federal Environmental Emergency Program, established by Environment Canada pursuant to a Cabinet Directive. As part of the program, national and regional committees or "teams" were established to provide coordinated and comprehensive advice on environmental emergency planning and response.

In Atlantic Canada, REET includes representatives from all federal and provincial agencies, including the CNSOPB, within the Atlantic Region which have expertise, information, responsibility or authority relating to environmental protection in the event of an emergency. Because private industry and industry associations have significant responsibilities for emergency planning and response, they are also members of REET.

REET maintains a contingency plan for environmental emergencies which builds upon and is integrated with the plans of individual agencies and industry sectors. The REET Contingency Plan provides details on the role and operation of the REET and its members.

Operation

REET is chaired by the Regional Environmental Emergencies Coordinator of the Environmental Protection Branch (EPB), Environment Canada in the Atlantic Region.

REET operates in two distinct modes:

1. In the NORMAL MODE, it is a forum for the exchange of scientific and technical information on contingency and countermeasures planning, and for the discussion and clarification of the roles of member agencies in responding to emergencies.

An annual meeting is held which is attended by representatives of agencies, associations and industries with expertise which should be involved in a response to an environmental emergency.

2. In the RESPONSE MODE, REET is a flexible and expandable team of experts and agency representatives convened to advise senior policy makers and, through the

lead agency or responsible party, to provide coordinated environmental advice, information and assistance to the On-Scene Commander (OSC).

The output from REET may include: identification and recommendation of priorities for prevention, containment and cleanup; recommendations for countermeasures operation, including the use of chemical dispersants; advice concerning cleanup methodologies; oceanographic and meteorological forecasts and evaluations; estimates of resource impacts; and modeling and forecasting of spill trajectories.

REET may be convened in the RESPONSE MODE during an environmental emergency related to offshore petroleum activities at the request of the CNSOPB, or at the request of an industry OSC. CNSOPB will assign a liaison officer to attend REET meetings (normally held at the EPB Dartmouth office) in person or via conference call.

Individuals representing member agencies or scientific disciplines in REET act both as specialists in their own area of expertise and as coordinators for access to scientific and technical experts and information sources within the agencies where they are employed.

In a major international emergency situation, a Joint Preparedness Team (JPT) would be formed. The country leading the response provides the organizational structure through which the environmental advice is offered to the OSC and the JPT. In Atlantic Canada, such advice is provided by the Atlantic REET.

Approved:

Andrew Parker
Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board

Date

Roger Percy
Environment Canada

Date