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9-20-05

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.ensopb.ns.ca

File No.: NS General

September 20, 2005

Ms. Charity Hagen
Hunt Oil Company of Canada, Inc.
Suite 3100, 450 - 1st Street SW
Calgary, AB T2P 5H1

Dear Ms. Hagen:

RE: Hunt Oil - Validation of 2002 Environmental Assessment

The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (the Board) has reviewed the validation of the 2002 Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposal to conduct a 2D seismic survey in Sydney Bight, dated April 29, 2005. The review of the document includes comments from Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), and Environment Canada (EC).

In general, the document provides a reasonable overview of the new information and research considered during the review. However, additional information is required on species at risk. The project must still comply with the General Prohibitions (SARA Section 32, 33) and other relevant sections of SARA, and Hunt Oil must demonstrate how determinations on compliance were made. However, we understand there is limited knowledge of distributions and no Recovery Plans yet exists. For Schedule 1 SARA species which may be in the project area, please revisit this portion of the assessment and more explicitly evaluate whether the activity will "harm, harass or kill" an individual.

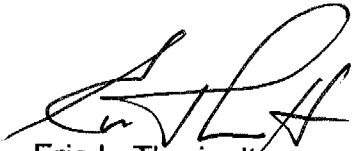
It should be noted that Table 1 of species with COSEWIC/SARA designations in the study area is out of date as of May 2005. The species and population with required revisions include: winter skate (southern Gulf population), winter skate (eastern Scotian Shelf population), and fin whale (Atlantic population).

We look forward to receiving the additional information to the current validation document that addresses species at risk.

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Please do not hesitate to contact me at 496-0742, if you wish further discussion or clarification of our comments. For your information, attached are comments provided by EC and the DFO, and the Board's response to DFO.

Yours truly,

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

Eric L. Theriault
Advisor, Environmental Affairs

ELT/mes

cc: B. Jeffrey, Environment Canada
T. Potter, Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans
C. A. Parker, CNSOPB