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**HUNT OIL COMPANY OF CANADA, INC.**  
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Cagary, Alberta, Canada T2P 5H1  
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September 29, 2005

Canada – Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, TD Centre  
1791 Barrington Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3K9  
**Attention: Eric Theriault**  
**Advisor, Environmental Affairs**

Dear Mr. Theriault:

**RE: Hunt Oil Seismic Program on Exploration Licenses 2364 and 2365**

In response to the Board's March 6, 2003 decision/press release Hunt Oil Company of Canada, Inc. is providing an outline of the mitigative measures that will be taken to minimize any potential risk to overwintering cod during the proposed seismic program on the above mentioned licenses. Hunt has put a great deal of effort into designing a program that will mitigate effects on overwintering cod, while still acquiring the necessary data required.

The mitigative measures taken by Hunt are:

- (a) The seismic program has been modified from 25 lines to 19 lines with a reduction in total length from 1571 km to 993 km. This change has significantly reduced the amount of time during which the vessel is on line acquiring data from approximately 212hrs to 134hrs.
- (b) the one long line extending towards the northern tip of Cape Breton has been eliminated;
- (c) the seismic vessel will "ramp up" the source array power gradually for 30 minutes prior to the start of the program each day;
- (d) work with the seismic contractor to acquire data in deeper water early in the program (starting with the NW-SE oriented lines 05-09 and working inward to 05-12) to maximize the temporal and spatial separation between the survey operations and the areas of cod overwintering along the Laurantian Channel.



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- (e) To organize the order the survey lines in such a way as to help mitigate general outward movement of cod expected to occur in November. Specifically after acquiring the deepwater lines (05-09 through 05-12) to progress from the inshore NW-SE lines (05-19 through 05-13). The NE-SW lines (05-01 through 05-08) will be planned to be acquired in a pattern of alternating lines with offshore headings and inshore headings. The final order of lines will also be constrained by operations factors such as prevailing sea conditions, currents, vessel traffic, survey efficiency (minimization of turn time and transit between lines) and geophysical factors such as completing lines in one pass (to reduce streamer feather mismatch).
- (f) an Environmental Effects Monitoring program focusing on cod will be implemented in conjunction with the seismic program.

By implementing these measures Hunt will mitigate impact through reduction in area, avoidance of overwintering cod accumulation(s) and warning to allow for movement away from the direct sound source, while monitoring for potential effects.

Further to this letter I respectfully request a meeting with the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and a Hunt representative to address what has been outlined above prior to October 1, 2005.

Yours truly,

Charity Paquette, B.Sc., A.Ag.  
**HUNT OIL COMPANY OF CANADA, INC.**