

Cape Breton Public Review Report Released

April 02, 2002

Halifax, NS - The Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) has received the Report of the Cape Breton Public Review. The Board will review the report, in consultation with the federal and provincial governments, before making any comment; meanwhile the report has been released to the public.

In October 2000, the Board received a joint directive from the federal and provincial governments to hold a public review of the effects of potential oil and gas exploration and drilling activities offshore Cape Breton. The directive from the federal Minister of Natural Resources and the provincial Minister responsible for the Nova Scotia Petroleum Directorate referenced activities within Exploration Licences 2364, 2365 and 2368.

Dr. Teresa MacNeil was appointed Commissioner in February of 2001. She conducted the independent review including information sessions last fall and 15 days of public hearings in January of this year. More than 100 people made presentations to the Commission.

"The Board thanks Dr. MacNeil and her staff for their hard work during the last year," said J.E. (Jim) Dickey, CEO of the CNSOPB. "As well, we thank all those who participated and took the time to present their position on this important issue."

"The Board's order prohibiting all petroleum-related activities on these licences will remain in place until the Board has had an opportunity to consider the report and decide on a course of action," he explained.

Copies of the report have been sent to all participants. As well, copies are available at the Board's office; 6th Floor, TD Centre, 1791 Barrington Street, Halifax, B3J 3K9 or on the website at www.cnsopb.ns.ca.

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