

Strategic Environmental Assessment Released

August 23, 2002

Halifax, NS - The Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board has released the latest in a series of Strategic Environmental Assessments for areas offshore Nova Scotia and the first to cover lands not currently under licence to petroleum companies or included in a Call for Bids.

The assessment for Eastern Sable Island Bank, Western Banquereau Bank, the Gully Trough and the Eastern Scotian Slope will be used to help determine whether the lands could be included in a future Call for Bids. The general public is invited to participate in the process by providing written comment on the lands reviewed in this assessment.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the latest in a series that has been conducted by the Board, but the first to review lands before they are nominated by the petroleum industry and before a Call for Bids. It is not a replacement for the more detailed environmental assessment required for any application for a work activity under the Board's regulatory process.

The ecological overview for the SEA was conducted for the Board by an independent consultant. The overview was used to prepare the report by Board staff, which was reviewed by experts with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Environment Canada.

Written comments on the lands assessed in the report should be forwarded to the Board no later than September 23rd, 2002 and addressed to Eric Theriault, Advisor - Environmental Affairs, Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board; 6th Floor - TD Centre; 1791 Barrington Street; Halifax, NS; B3J 3K9; or via e-mail at postmaster.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment is available on the Board's website www.cnsopb.ns.ca or at the Board offices: 18th Floor - TD Centre, 1791 Barrington Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3K9, 902-422-5588.

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