

Draft Guidelines Released for Public Comment

February 22, 2002

Halifax, NS - A draft of the *Offshore Waste Treatment Guidelines* has been released for public comment by the Canada – Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB), the Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NOPB), and the National Energy Board (NEB). The Guidelines describe minimum standards for the treatment and/or disposal of wastes associated with the routine operations of drilling and production installations offshore Canada.

A working group chaired by a representative of C-NOPB and with membership from the staff of the three Boards, other government departments, industry and the public has been engaged in a review of the existing Guidelines, last published in 1996. The result is a draft revision to the Guidelines that is open for public comment until April 5th, 2002. Following this comment period, the draft will be revised as necessary and submitted to the three Boards for their consideration.

The review considered results of environmental effects monitoring programs offshore eastern Canada, and in other areas to the degree appropriate, and the present state of technology in the minimization, treatment and disposal of offshore drilling and production wastes. Additional information is provided in the attached backgrounder and on the CNSOPB website at www.cnsopb.ns.ca.

Written comments on the draft *Offshore Waste Treatment Guidelines* should be provided to the C-NOPB by close of business on April 5, 2002. The submissions may be sent by conventional mail, fax, or electronic mail to the following:

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