

## **CNSOPB issues two Significant Discovery Licences**

(Halifax, NS) The Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board has issued two significant discovery licences (SDL) to EnCana Corporation (2701, 2702). The SDLs are in the area proposed for the Deep Panuke Offshore Gas project.

In accordance with the Accord Acts a SDL confers, with respect to the portion of the offshore area to which the licence applies:

(a) the right to explore for, and the exclusive right to drill and test for, petroleum;

(b) the exclusive right to develop those portions of the offshore area in order to produce petroleum; and

(c) the exclusive right, subject to compliance with the other provisions of Part II of the Accords Act, to obtain a production licence.

The licences are effective June 11, 2007, the date EnCana's SDL applications were received by the Board. The issuance of an SDL is a step in the rights issuance process leading toward production.

The regulatory review of EnCana's Deep Panuke Offshore Development project is ongoing. The CNSOPB will release its Decision Report following the completion of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's environmental assessment process.

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