

SOEI Firewater System Status

October 6, 2000

Halifax, NS - The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board, following consultation with the Certifying Authority, has considered a plan by SOEI to make its fire fighting system compliant with Board requirements. The plan has been accepted subject to ongoing review.

The plan was filed with the Board last Friday and outlines the work SOEI is doing to make the firewater systems compliant with all requirements and applicable codes and standards. The work must be completed on the Thebaud platform by March 30, 2001. The work includes the replacement of three of the six main elements of the fire fighting system with copper nickel material and modifications to those elements proposed to be retained. The elements to be retained underwent analysis and testing, including blast tests, which were witnessed by the CNSOPB and the Certifying Authority.

In June, the Board issued new conditions of authorization for the operation of SOEI's offshore facilities at Thebaud and Venture. The conditions referred specifically to the FRP firewater systems. The Board gave SOEI until September 29th to demonstrate that the systems it wishes to retain are compliant with all applicable codes and standards.

The limitations imposed in June continue to apply. The operator must have supplemental fire protection including a fire fighting vessel at Thebaud. Venture will continue to operate as an unattended platform until the firewater systems are demonstrated to be fully compliant.