

**TO:** All Media

**DATE:** October 30, 2001

**FOR:** For Release at noon

**SUBJECT:** Draft EA Scoping Document & MOU Released for Comment

**Halifax, NS** - The public is being asked what it would like PanCanadian to address in the environmental assessment for the Deep Panuke Offshore Gas Development.

The Province of Nova Scotia and the federal departments and agencies, that have environmental responsibility for the project, today released a draft Scoping Document outlining what must be addressed in the Comprehensive Study Report of the project. The general public is invited to make written submissions regarding the Scoping Document within 30 days. Those comments will be considered before the final Scoping Document is prepared and sent to PanCanadian for it to complete the CSR.

The Scoping Document and Comprehensive Study Report are part of the requirements under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. The Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board, the National Energy Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Industry Canada and Environment Canada are all identified as Responsible Authorities under the Act for this project and will be involved in the environmental assessment process. As will the Province of Nova Scotia, through the Department of Environment and Labour, which has or may have environmental assessment responsibilities under the *Nova Scotia Environment Act*.

Those federal agencies and departments, along with the Province, have negotiated a draft Memorandum of Understanding. The purpose of the MOU is to ensure the interests of federal and provincial government departments and agencies are included in the environmental assessment and to coordinate their respective EA processes and responsibilities. The draft MOU is also available to the public for written comment for 30 days.

An overview of the Deep Panuke Project, an explanation of the environmental review process, as well as copies of the draft Scoping Document and the draft MOU are available at [www.cnsopb.ns.ca](http://www.cnsopb.ns.ca) or by contacting the Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board, 6th Floor - TD Centre, 1791 Barrington Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3K9 or by calling 902-422-5588. A list of other locations where copies of the draft Scoping Document and MOU will be available on the website or by calling the Board offices.

Written submissions should be sent to Derek McDonald; Environmental Review Coordinator - Deep Panuke Project; Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board; 6th Floor - TD Centre; 1791 Barrington Street; Halifax, NS; B3J 3K9. Submissions will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. AT, November 29th, 2001.

The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board is the independent joint agency of the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia responsible for the regulation of petroleum activities and resources offshore Nova Scotia.

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For further information contact:

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