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May 11, 2020

Mr. Keith MacLeod
Chair of the Board
Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board
8th Floor, TD Centre
1791 Barrington Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3K9
Via e-mail kmacleod@cnsopb.ns.ca

Dear Mr. MacLeod:

Re: Fundamental Decisions Call for Bids NS20-1

Thank you for your letter of March 10th, 2020, requesting the ratification of the Canada–Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board’s three Fundamental Decisions pertaining to the 2020 Calls for Bids (NS20-1). This letter is also in follow-up to my letter dated April 3rd, 2020 regarding the suspension of the Fundamental Decisions.

These Fundamental Decisions were made under the *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act* and the *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation (Nova Scotia) Act*. Pursuant to Section 35(1)(a) of those Acts, and following discussions with the Government of Canada, I wish to set aside these Fundamental Decisions.

As you may appreciate, COVID-19 continues to have a dramatic impact on government priorities and activities as well as the activities of the global petroleum sector. As Nova Scotia and Canada begin to recover and take steps to reduce restrictions, I would be pleased to reconsider the Fundamental Decisions the Call for Bids NS20-1 areas at some point in the future.

I wish to express our continued confidence in the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Area.

Sincerely,



Hon. Derek Mombourquette
Minister

c: Hon. Seamus O’Regan, Minister, Natural Resources Canada
Ms. Christine Bonnell-Eisnor, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Canada-Nova Scotia
Offshore Petroleum Board