

Minister
of Natural Resources



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

May 11, 2020

Mr. Keith MacLeod
Chair
Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board
kburns@cnsopb.ns.ca

Dear Mr. MacLeod:

Thank you for your letter of March 10, 2020, requesting the ratification of the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board's Fundamental Decisions concerning the launch of the 2020 Call for Bids.

In light of the COVID-19 health crisis, the Honourable Derek Mombourquette, Minister of Energy and Mines in Nova Scotia, sent a letter to the Board on April 3, 2020, suspending ministerial decisions on these Fundamental Decisions until May 11, 2020. Following this additional time period, I am now writing to provide a response to the Board.

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 consistent with the decision of my provincial counterpart, I wish to set aside these Fundamental Decisions. I would be pleased to reconsider these Fundamental Decisions in spring 2021, once the offshore industry has had a chance to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 health crisis. This approach will also provide Nova Scotia with additional time to undertake a marketing campaign for the Call for Bids parcels.

I recognise the unusual circumstances and challenges that we are all facing, and wish to express my appreciation for your continuing efforts to ensure the health and well-being of employees working in the Canada-Nova Scotia offshore.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seamus O'Regan".

The Honourable Seamus O'Regan, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Derek Mombourquette, M.L.A.
Minister of Energy and Mines, Government of Nova Scotia

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