

June 15, 2015

Chief Rufus Copage
Sipekne'katik First Nation
522 Church Street
Indian Brook, NS
B0N 1W0

Dear Chief Copage,

**RE: Comments on Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board
(CNSOPB)'s Call for Bids NS15-1**

I have received your letter dated June 3rd, 2015 which included your comments about the Call for Bids NS15-1 parcels. Your comments are currently being reviewed by CNSOPB staff, and will be considered by CNSOPB Board Members prior to making any decisions respecting the potential issuance of exploration licences as a result of this Call.

I have attached our response letter to your comments on the NS14-1 Call for Bids, dated July 28th, 2014.

Thank you for taking the time to review the NS15-1 Call for Bids parcels and provide input. The CNSOPB is appreciative of input from the Mi'Kmaq of Nova Scotia and recognizes the unique perspective your comments offer.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any further comments or questions.

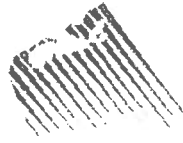
Sincerely,

Stuart Pinks
Chief Executive Officer

KF

Enclosure

cc: Justin Huston, Office of Aboriginal Affairs
Sam Millar, Natural Resources Canada
Kim Himmelman, Nova Scotia Department of Energy



July 28, 2014

Chief Rufus Copage
Sipekne'katik First Nation
522 Church Street
Indian Brook, NS B0N 1W0

Dear Chief Copage;

Re: RESPONSE TO WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR CALL FOR BIDS NS14-1

I have received your comments on the NS14-1 Call for Bids parcels. The Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) is appreciative of insight from the Mi'kmaq community. Your comments are currently being reviewed by CNSOPB staff. Our Board members will consider your comments at their upcoming meeting. In addition, this letter has been posted to this Call's website at <http://www.callforbids.ca/content/written-comments> for the public and potential bidders to view.

Environmental protection is paramount to the CNSOPB, coming second only to health and safety of offshore workers. As such, when developing the terms and conditions associated with Call for Bids NS14-1, we have included additional provisions in the Call for Bids and sample Exploration Licence form that indicated that for Parcel #1 and #2:

Parcel #1 - "The Lands include a portion of Shortland Canyon, which has been designated as critical habitat area under the Species at Risk Act respecting the endangered Northern Bottlenose Whale, Scotian Shelf population. Any approved activity within or near this area may require enhanced mitigation and may require certain limitations for the protection of this species and the prevention of the destruction of critical habitat."

Parcel #2 - "The Lands include a portion of Haldimand Canyon, which has been designated as critical habitat area under the Species at Risk Act respecting the endangered Northern Bottlenose Whale, Scotian Shelf population. Any approved activity within or near this area may require enhanced mitigation and may require certain limitations for the protection of this species and the prevention of the destruction of critical habitat."

The boundaries of the Call for Bids NS14-1 parcels are defined by the geology and hydrocarbon potential of the area, and any activity that may be proposed will require a project specific Environmental Assessment prior to its potential authorization. We acknowledge the concerns raised for specific areas, and confirm that these concerns will be taken into account and addressed if and when any activity is proposed. An

Exploration Licence holder must seek CNSOPB authorization for any proposed work or activity.

In preparation for this Call for Bids, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was completed in August 2012 to examine potential environmental effects that may be associated with potential petroleum exploration activities in the Call for Bids NS14-1 area. This SEA and others are available for you to view on the CNSOPB's website – <http://www.cnsopb.ns.ca/environment/environmental-assessments/sea-public-registry>. The CNSOPB plans to maintain current SEAs in areas where future Calls for Bids are most likely.

An SEA is not intended to replace project-specific environmental assessments (EAs); rather it is intended to support and inform future project-specific EAs for exploration programs. All subsequent projects in an area covered by an SEA, including seismic programs and exploratory drilling, require a project-specific EA prior to a project being considered for authorization, and will also include the opportunity for public comments, usually in the form of a 30 day public comment period on the EA document.

The next Call for Bids will be announced in April 2015. At that time, we intend to again communicate with Mi'kmaq groups from around the province. Please refer to our website at www.cnsopb.ns.ca and www.callforbids.ca, or feel free to contact me at any time for further information.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Funke
Advisor, Communications

KF/tlm

cc: Stuart Pinks, Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board
Christine Bonnell-Eisnor, Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board
David Miller, Nova Scotia Department of Energy
Samuel Millar, Natural Resources Canada