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Sent via email to [derek.mcdonald@ceaa-acee.gc.ca](mailto:derek.mcdonald@ceaa-acee.gc.ca) on 13 June 2017

13 June 2017

Dear Mr. McDonald

**SUBJECT: Scotian Basin Exploration Drilling Project – Response to Information Request (IR) 114**

Thank you for your letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017 in response to the supplementary information to IR-114 submitted by BP to the Agency on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

In the supplementary information, BP provided information about First Nation communities specified by the Agency. Information was included for the following communities:

- Nova Scotia: Millbrook, Sipekne'katik, Annapolis Valley, Bear River, Wagmatcook, and We'kmoqmaq.
- New Brunswick: Buctouche, Eel River Bar, Esgenoôpetitj, Indian Island, Pabineau, Kingsclear, Oromocto, and Tobique.
- Prince Edward Island: Abegweit, and Lennox Island.
- Newfoundland and Labrador: Miawpukek

In line with the request from the Agency on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017, BP provided the following information:

- Maps showing where fishing activity is practiced;
- A description of each species harvested for FSC or communal commercial purposes in the RAA;
- Demographics for each individual First Nation community;
- A summary of engagement activity between BP and each individual First Nation community;
- A summary of fishing practices by each individual First Nation community for both food social and ceremonial purposes, and communal commercial purposes. The information included data about timing and location of fishing activity, with a discussion about the extent of potential fishing overlap with the Project Area (PA), Local Assessment Area (LAA) and Regional Assessment Area (RAA).
- A discussion of the number of licences held by individual communities and the relative importance of fishing activity within the RAA to each individual First Nation community;
- A review of the assessment presented in the EIS of potential effects on the Current Use of Resources for Traditional Purposes for each individual First Nation community based on the information provided in the addendum to IR-114.

BP also committed to continued engagement with individual communities and to share relevant information with the Agency to support the preparation of their Environmental Assessment Report. BP understands that the Agency is requesting a schedule of planned engagement activities, and a date by which BP will report its findings and provide an updated assessment of effects, in writing to the agency.

BP has several meetings scheduled with communities in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to further discuss the findings of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS.) In addition to discussing environmental elements related to fisheries, BP is seeking to better identify the relative importance of fisheries to the social and economic conditions at the community level, understanding that there may be confidential information that communities may not wish to share. Meetings which have been scheduled and confirmed to date include the following:

- **June 26 2017:** Meeting between MTI and BP Community Relations Advisor and BP Marine Science Advisor
- **June 27 2017:** Meeting between Sipekna'katik and BP Community Relations Advisor and BP Fisheries Advisor
- **June 28 2017:** Meeting between MNNB and BP Community Relations Advisor and BP Fisheries Advisor

BP continues to request meetings with the other Nova Scotia First Nation communities and organisations including the KMKNO and Millbrook however we have not yet received confirmation of convenient dates. While It is possible that dates of scheduled meetings may change, BP is committed to continue engaging communities for the duration of the project in person, via telephone and in written communication.

Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation have stated their interests are met with the information already provided in the EIS and in previous meetings as noted in their November 3, 2016 letter to CEAA. BP will continue to communicate and share information with both Prince Edward Island First Nations. Communication with Miawpukek FN will be addressed similarly as they have shared they have no concerns or comments to make .

The information we learn and assemble concerning the relative importance of fisheries to the social and economic conditions at the community level will be conveyed to CEAA by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 along with a review of the assessment of the Current Use of Resources for Traditional Purposes in the EIS including any applicable updates.

I trust that this information is sufficient to satisfy the request in CEAA's letter of 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Please confirm receipt of this letter by reply.

Yours sincerely

Anita Perry

c.c. Kate Pickard, BP, Jacob Handel, BP, Heather Giddens, Stantec