



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

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September 25, 2019

Chief Roderick Gould Jr.
Abegweit First Nation
11222 St Peters Road
Mount Stewart, PE C0A 1T0

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment Report and Potential Federal Environmental Assessment Conditions for the CNOOC International Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling Project

Dear Chief Gould:

The purpose of this letter is to share, for your review and comment:

1. the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Report prepared by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency), and
2. the potential federal EA conditions, which will be recommended to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change for inclusion in her Decision Statement.

As you know, on August 28, 2019, the *Impact Assessment Act* came into force. The EA for the CNOOC International Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling Project (the Project) commenced in June 2017 and, as such, it will be completed under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* as per transitional provisions described in the *Impact Assessment Act*.

The Draft EA Report presents the Agency's views on the findings of the EA, including conclusions and recommendations regarding the significance of the environmental effects of the Project, technically and economically feasible mitigation measures that would mitigate any significant effects and the requirements of the follow-up program should the Project proceed.

The Draft EA Report also includes a summary of consultation with Indigenous peoples in relation to the Project during the EA process, and sets out proposed mitigation and/or accommodation measures for potential effects on Indigenous communities and potential impacts to potential or established rights.

After reviewing all comments, the Agency will revise the EA Report and potential federal conditions as appropriate before providing them to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change for consideration in taking her EA decision. The federal conditions would become legally binding on the proponent if the Minister of Environment and Climate Change issues a Decision Statement that would allow the Project to proceed.

You can access the electronic copy of the Draft EA Report and potential federal EA conditions on the Agency's web site at

<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/132698?culture=en-CA>. Please contact me if you would like a printed copy.



Written comments on the Draft EA Report and potential federal EA conditions must be received by October 25, 2019. Please send your comments to:

CNOOC International Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling Project
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
200-1801 Hollis Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3N4
Email: ceaa.cnocflemish-pass.acee@canada.ca

IMPORTANT NOTE: In support of the new *Impact Assessment Act*, the Agency has redesigned and implemented a new Canadian Impact Assessment Registry. The new Registry provides increased access to information and expands on the capabilities of the previous Registry. Comments submitted during the EA will now be posted online. Information that you provide to the Agency can only be kept confidential in specific circumstances. Should you have any documents that contain sensitive information that you believe should be protected from release to the public, please contact me before you provide the documents to us to discuss whether and how the information can be protected.

The Agency will follow up with you on this letter. In the meantime, please contact me if you require further information. I can be reached at (902) 426-4951 or by email at ceaa.cnocflemish-pass.acee@canada.ca.

Yours sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Joseph Vigder
Project Manager, Atlantic Region

cc (email):

- D. MacKenzie – Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island
- T. MacDonald – Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island
- T. Cutcliffe – Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island
- E. Perry – Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island
- R. Angus – Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island
- J. Tombs – Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
- I. Murphy – Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
- E. Young – Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
- C. Bustin – Indigenous Services Canada
- C. Stevens – Major Projects Management Office
- J. Flanagan – Transport Canada
- B. Pilgrim – Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- M. Hingston – Environment and Climate Change Canada
- M. Genest – Natural Resources Canada
- S. Rumbolt – Health Canada

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