

Ms. Emily Gregus
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200-1801 Hollis Street
Halifax NS B3J 3N4

Date: December 14, 2016
Reference: SC-CEA-0121-16

Reference: Planned Collaboration between ExxonMobil and Statoil for Eastern Newfoundland Offshore and Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling Programs (CEAR 80132 and CEAR 80129)

Dear Ms. Gregus:

Further to our teleconference of November 24, 2016 between the Canadian Environmental Assessment (“CEA”) Agency (the “Agency”) and ExxonMobil Canada Ltd. (“ExxonMobil”) and Statoil Canada Ltd, (“Statoil”) this letter provides further definition of our planned collaboration in aspects of the two projects CEAR 80132 and CEAR 80129 (the “Projects”). As background, both ExxonMobil and Statoil (collectively “Proponents”) have worked together on a wide range of petroleum activities offshore Newfoundland and Labrador including ongoing production in the Hibernia Field, development of the Hebron Field, acquisition of seismic data, drilling of exploration wells and acquisition of exploration licences. Specifically, the Proponents are co-venturers in a number of the exploration licences that comprise the Projects. Considering the similarities in the Projects- scope, activities, project area, and time frame- we anticipate there will be duplication in the technical/scientific work and stakeholder engagement in support of our respective submissions. The Proponents intend to collaborate on the preparation of an Environment Impact Statement (“EIS”) for the Projects. This will lead to improved efficiency by reducing duplication and regulatory /stakeholder burden.

The Proponents considered various approaches to collaboration and preparation of joint EIS documentation. After discussions with the Agency regarding the potential approaches and consideration of the regulatory processes, the Proponents have decided that two separate EIS documents will be submitted. It is expected that the majority of the information contained in both EIS submissions will be the same. To improve regulatory efficiency and reduce burden to stakeholders the Proponents intend, where possible, to take the following approach:

- Submission of both EIS documents in the same time frame such that a joint review can be completed (the majority of information will be the same in both documents);
- Provision of a summary with the EIS that specifies the EIS sections with information that is unique; and
- Joint preparation of responses to Information Requests, although the responses will be submitted separately by each Proponent.

In addition to our collaboration with the preparation of EIS documents the Proponents will also be collaborating to address the engagement of Indigenous Groups, commercial fish harvesters, Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations and other stakeholders as referenced in our Environmental Assessment Project Description. We believe that any potential concerns would likely be common to both Projects and collective engagement with stakeholders would be the most efficient approach.

To lead the preparation and anticipated responses to our EIS submissions, the Proponents are jointly contracting Ms. Kimberly Coady, Environment and Regulatory Advisor as a point of contact to coordinate queries from the Agency and responses with respect to both shared and company specific concerns.

In conclusion, we thank the Agency for consideration of this proposed format of EIS submission, regulatory review process and Indigenous and stakeholder engagement process. We believe that efficiencies and consistency in managing the processes will be of benefit to the Proponents, stakeholders and the Agency.

Please contact the undersigned should you or any of your officials wish to further discuss this matter.

Yours truly,

<Original Signed by>

Stephanie Curran, P.Eng.
Regulatory Lead

cc: Kimberly Coady, Environment & Regulatory Advisor
Dave Burley, Director of Environmental Affairs, C-NLOPB