



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Suite 200
1801 Hollis Street
Halifax NS B3J 3N4

Bureau 200
1801 rue Hollis
Halifax, NS B3J 3N4

March 5, 2020

Sent by E-mail

Collette Horner
Regulatory Lead, Eastern Canada
BHP
St. John's, NL Canada
Email: collette.horner@BHP.com

Dear Ms. Horner,

SUBJECT: Outcome of conformity review of the Environmental Impact Statement

On February 14, 2020, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) received the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and EIS Summary for the BHP Canada Exploration Drilling Project (the Project) from BHP Petroleum (New Ventures) Corporation (the proponent). The Agency reviewed the EIS and EIS Summary in consideration of the requirements of the *Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS Guidelines), issued to the proponent by the Agency on June 28, 2019.

The Agency has concluded that the EIS and EIS Summary contain sufficient information to commence the technical review of the documents and the associated public and Indigenous comment period. This decision does not imply that the information provided is adequate to support the completion of the environmental assessment, and the Agency may request further information after the technical review is complete. The EIS and EIS Summary will be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet Site to invite comments by the public and Indigenous peoples during the comment period, which will begin immediately and end on April 4, 2020.

As of March 5, 2020, the federal legal timeline within which the Minister's decision must be made will begin. For more information on the approach to managing federal environmental assessment timelines, please consult the Agency's "*Operational Policy Statement: Information Requests and Timelines, February 2016*" at http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2016/acee-ceaa/En106-147-2016-eng.pdf.

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Should BHP Petroleum (New Ventures) Corporation have any questions regarding the technical review of the EIS, please contact me at 902-426-4951 or via email at iaac.bhpcanada.aeic@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

Joseph Vigder
Project Manager
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Cc:

Ian Murphy – Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
Elizabeth Young - Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
Carla Stevens - Major Projects Management Office
Kimberley Keats - Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Michael Hingston - Environment and Climate Change Canada
Sara Rumbolt - Health Canada
Maximilien Genest - Natural Resources Canada