



October 13, 2017

Todd Ralph
Project Manager
Fugro GeoSurveys
25 Pippy Place
St. John's, NL
A1B 3X2

Dear Mr. Ralph:

**Re: Fugro GeoSurveys Offshore Seafloor and Seep Sampling Program, 2017-2027
Environmental Assessment**

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) has reviewed the environmental assessment (EA) information regarding the proposed seafloor and seep sampling program in the eastern portion of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area as described in the *Offshore Seafloor and Seep Sampling Program (2017-2027) – Environmental Assessment* (Stantec Consulting Ltd., June 28, 2017) and the *Fugro - Offshore Seafloor and Seep Sampling Program (2017-2027) – Environmental Assessment – Consolidated Addendum* (Stantec Consulting Ltd., September 26, 2017). The C-NLOPB has completed the EA determination respecting the Project. A copy of our determination is enclosed for your information.

The EA Report and EA Addendum, as referenced above, describe the Project in sufficient detail and provides an acceptable assessment of the potential environmental effects of the Project. We have considered this information and the advice of the Boards' advisory agencies and have determined that the proposed project, following the application of mitigation measures, is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

At the time of application for subsequent program authorizations in the Project Area, Fugro GeoSurveys will be required to provide information to the C-NLOPB. This information should outline the proposed activities, confirm that the proposed program activities fall within the scope of the previously assessed program, and indicate if, with this information, the EA predictions remain valid. In addition, Fugro GeoSurveys shall provide information regarding the adaptive management of requirements of the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)* into program activities (e.g., introduction of new species or critical habitat to Schedule 1; additional mitigations; implementation of recovery strategies and/or monitoring plans). If there are any changes in the scope or if new information becomes available that may alter the EA conclusions, then a

revised EA will be required at the time of authorization application and/or renewal. No later than thirty (30) days prior to commencement of the Project, the Operator shall submit a table that lists all of the environmental commitments and mitigation measures made by the Operator during the EA with the subsequent status of those commitments and measures.

The following conditions are recommended to be appended to authorizations granted by the C-NLOPB for the program, as described in the EA reports referenced above:

For geological programs with fieldwork:

- *The Operator shall implement or cause to be implemented, all the policies, practices, recommendations and procedures for the protection of the environment included in or referred to in the Application and in the Offshore Seafloor and Seep Sampling Program (2017-2027) – Environmental Assessment (Stantec Consulting Ltd., June 28, 2017) and the Fugro - Offshore Seafloor and Seep Sampling Program (2017-2027) – Environmental Assessment – Consolidated Addendum (Stantec Consulting Ltd., September 26, 2017).*
- *The Operator shall employ a Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) on all vessels used for the purposes of conducting work or activity pursuant to this authorization.*
- *The Operator, or its contractors, shall shut down the Sub-bottom profiler (SBP) if a marine mammal or sea turtle listed as **Endangered or Threatened** (as per Schedule 1 of SARA) is observed in the safety zone when the sound source is active. The safety zone shall have a radius of at least 500 m, as measured from the centre of the sound source.*
- *No later than January 31, 2018, the Operator shall submit a report to the C-NLOPB describing the progress, including potential environmental effects, and the implementation of mitigation measures of its 2017 program. It shall include, but not be limited to, copies of the Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO), marine mammal observer (MMO), and seabird observer reports that were produced during the program.*

If you have any questions on the attached, or wish to discuss the EA review process, please contact Elizabeth Young, Environmental Assessment Officer, at 709-778-4232 or via email at eyoung@cnlopb.ca.

Yours truly,

Original signed by Dave Burley

Dave Burley
Director, Environmental Affairs

Enclosure