

REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATORY DRILLING EAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR Engagement Activity / Meeting Notes: Regional Assessment Committee and Oil and Gas Industry and Other Business Organizations		
Date and Time / Duration	May 22, 2019 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	
Location	Holiday Inn, Portugal Cove Road, St. John's NL	
Organization(s)	Oil and Gas Industry and Other Business Organizations	
Participants (External)	Michelle Gilders – Chevron (teleconference) Kent Slaney – Hibernia Lyndsay Haynes – Equinor Canada Brandon Ellis – St. John's Board of Trade Ellen Tracy – Stantec (on behalf of Chevron) Greg Janes - Suncor Steve Bettles – Husky Ken Morrissey – NOIA Charlene Johnson – NOIA Geoff Emberley – Engineers Canada David Pinsent – Suncor Rhiannon Davies – ExxonMobil Jennifer Matthews – CAPP Gillian Savage-Knight – ExxonMobil/HMDC Derek Sullivan – CNOOC International Collette Horner – BHP Richard Davis – BHP Stephanie Kinzel-Tapper – BHP Mike White – Nalcor – Oil and Gas Mary Hatherly – Equinor Canada	
Participants (Internal)	Garth Bangay Wes Foote Maureen Murphy-Rustad Keith Storey Gerald Anderson	Steve Bonnell Melissa Moss Tonya Warren
Key Questions / Issues Raised	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General support for the Regional Assessment (RA) and acknowledgement that it needs to be done correctly. 2. Concerns raised regarding the size of the Region and the need to break it down into manageable pieces based on the level of knowledge available in areas. 3. More clarity is required on the RA process, including the role and responsibility of operators. 4. More clarity is required on the purpose of the RA and its end goal. Will it be used to streamline the EA process and shorten EA approval timelines? 5. Uncertainty around overlapping legislation of CEAA 2012 and Bill C-69 and the process for the RA. Concerned with the possibility of exploration drilling 	

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Key Questions / Issues Raised

- projects having to undergo a Review Panel under the new legislation if there are data gaps identified in the RA.
6. Questions regarding whether the 180 days of “early planning” proposed under Bill C-69 is included within or in addition to the RA once the Bill is passed.
 7. Operators understand the Committee will be conducting Indigenous engagement as part of the RA process. Questions around whether Operators will be required to complete additional engagement or consultation following RA completion.
 8. General questions raised on the differences between the Strategic Environmental Assessment for eastern offshore Newfoundland, and the RA.
 9. Operators would like clarity on C-NLOPB requirements over and above a completed RA. Concerned that an additional assessment may be needed to meet Board requirements. Also, will the annual EA Updates be required?
 10. The RA needs to clearly outline what the limitations are for the assessment and the circumstances where additional information/requirements will be required. If a project-specific EA is a recommendation for certain criteria, those criteria need to be clearly presented as outcomes of the RA.
 11. Interest in whether and how the RA would continually be updated as an “evergreen” document, but also concerns how (and how often) such RA updates may result in an update to the associated RA decision / regulation, potentially resulting in a change in the terms and conditions and mitigations that are required for a future drilling project.
 12. When does the “clock” start? Concern is that if an Operator plans a drilling project under an Exploration Licence (EL) issued by the C-NLOPB, and that project is exempt from EA based on the RA decision as it exists at that time, there is some potential that the decision could change before drilling starts or is completed, which creates a situation of some uncertainty and risk for Operators in that regard.
 13. Drill rig procurement and other planning for a drilling campaign often takes place several years in advance of the in-field work, and these are long lead items that typically cannot “change on a dime” if the mitigation requirements were to suddenly change.
 14. Industry would like to address this uncertainty by establishing a transition period. Would the RA Committee consider making recommendations around the timing of and process for their decisions – For example, link it to the duration of an EL?
 15. Operators would like to participate throughout the RA process (e.g. TAG participation). This will be coordinated through CAPP.
 16. Concern around RA completeness if gaps are identified in the RA. Will this affect Minister’s decision for exploration drilling projects? Can the RA still be completed and used if there are areas with little or no data?
 17. Supportive of GIS platform, particularly as it informs cumulative effects. However, there will need to be a report that will accompany the GIS platform. GIS platform needs to be user friendly and updated regularly.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">18. Phased approach may be used for the RA Product from well known to lesser known. Will also look to UK and Norway examples as to how to build in cumulative effects.19. Would like to see a layering capability of the GIS platform that includes interactive map that shows exploration license ownerships.20. Questions over who will retain ownership of the Regional Assessment following completion and maintain updates to GIS Platform.21. CAPP/Operators would like to see a demo of the pilot GIS system once available and to have the opportunity to provide some input into its design.22. Engineers Canada concern of the proper regulation of engineers/geosciences working in the offshore.
Follow-up / Action Items	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Further discussion with CAPP on Industry participation in the TAG and Study Area (sub region) delineation.2. NOIA to provide socio-economic data related to exploration activity.
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