



Mi'gma'we'l Tplu'taqnn

Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
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c/o Virginia Crawford
Senior Advisor, Indigenous Consultations, Strategic and Regional Environmental Assessments
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada / Government of Canada
virginia.crawford@canada.ca /Tel: <Personal information removed>

February 18, 2020

Dear Ms. Virginia Crawford,

Re: Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador – Public Comments on the draft Regional Assessment Report– request for a submission extension to February 28, 2020

I am writing today on behalf of Mi'gma'we'l Tplu'taqnn Incorporated (MTI) – an organization that represents the rights and interests of eight Mi'gmaq communities in New Brunswick (Amlamgog (Fort Folly) First Nation, Natoaganeg (Eel Ground) First Nation, Oinpegitjoig (Pabineau) First Nation, Esgenoôpetitj (Burnt Church) First Nation, Tjipôgtôtjg (Buctouche) First Nation, L'nui Menikuk (Indian Island) First Nation, Ugpi'ganjig (Eel River Bar) First Nation and Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq Nation) regarding MTI's participation in the Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador ("the Regional Assessment").

Specifically, I am writing today to respectfully request an extension for the submission of MTI's comments on the draft Regional Assessment report from **February 21, 2020 to February 28, 2020**. In order for MTI to fully and meaningfully participate in the review of the Regional Assessment and how this assessment will be informed by Mi'gmaq rights, interests, and values our staff members, leadership, and technical experts require adequate time, resources, and capacity to undertake this review. At this current point in time it is not feasible for MTI and MTI's technical experts to undertake a meaningful review by the legislated deadline.

Further to that point, MTI is aware that IAAC does have a provision for granting extension to participating parties for the submission of comments as long as that deadline is no more than 30 days passed the initial deadline. MTI respectfully requests this clause be applied and an extension until **February 28, 2020** be granted.



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At this point in time such an extension would go a long way in enabling MTI to participate meaningfully in this regional assessment. As part of our engagement we do rely on IAAC to make reasonable efforts in creating an engagement approach that is conducive to the participation of MTI and other Indigenous nations in light of the various consultation files we are collectively navigating, including consultation on the Equinor Central Right Exploration project which also held a comment deadline of February 21, 2020.

In granting this extension, IAAC would making a small step that would greatly affect our ability to participate and demonstrate that as an agency IAAC values the input and concerns of impacted Indigenous Nations, including MTI.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Marcy Cloud
Impact Assessment Coordinator
Mi'gma'we'l Tplu'taqnn Incorporated (MTI)

cc: Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
Hon. Seamus O'Reagan, Minister of Natural Resources
Chief George Ginnish, Mi'gma'we'l Tplu'taqnn Incorporated
Chief Rebecca Knockwood, Mi'gma'we'l Tplu'taqnn Incorporated
Derek Simon, Burchells LLP