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Dear Regional Assessment Committee Co-Chairs,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the Geographic Information System decision-support tool released on February 27th, 2020, developed as part of the Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador.

We would like to commend CEAA on taking the initiative to create the GIS application and for taking the approach of creating a digital look to the Regional Assessment. This approach should now set the framework for future Regional Assessments in NL's offshore.

While the GIS application is a great approach, there are a few adjustments we feel are required to make the application more valuable to the end user and are outlined below:

Having access to the full report within the application is a good idea although at times reading the material through the application is difficult and a little overwhelming. A recommendation could be having separate links to the material such that it would open on separate tabs from the application and then the application could be used more for the GIS component.

It would also be beneficial for the end user to have the ability to download all material including the individual shapefiles/layers and the associated sections of the report within the application. This would make it easier to read/interpret the material. Oil and Gas companies have internal software used to analyze datasets and thus having access to this data within local environments would be beneficial to making informed decisions.

Some of the layers within the application are a snapshot in time and change throughout the year, such as those listed in the "Petroleum related-Activity" and more specifically the existing land related information. Unless these layers are going to be updated on a regular basis (i.e, quarterly) it may not be beneficial to have these layers listed. This information may be used in decision making and thus would need to be accurate and up to date at all times to add value.

Information such as where the final GIS application will be housed, which company/agency will be maintaining it, and the frequency of updates are also important to outline to the end users. This along with a user manual in a form that is easily understood would be an added benefit to



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users. At the moment the search capabilities within the application are limited and a user manual could help with this capability.

We look forward to continuing to work with the committee and others to further advance the application for both the Eastern Newfoundland Regional Assessment and future Regional Assessments in NL's offshore.

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