June 21, 2013

Dear [Redacted] s.30(1)

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, file # NR-010-2013

On April 25, 2013, the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

I am requesting a copy of any and all correspondence that has been sent to and from the department regarding the creation of an independent safety regulator. Please do search back to December 2010.

In addition, through email on the same date you confirmed that you were seeking official correspondence only (i.e., email correspondence is excluded).

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to these records has been granted. Please note that access to some information contained within the records has been refused in accordance with the following exceptions to disclosure, as specified in the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act):

- Section 23(1)(a)(b) – Disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations
- Section 30(1) – Personal information

As required by subsection 7(2) of the Act, we have severed information that is excepted from disclosure and have provided you with as much information as possible. In accordance with your request for a copy of the records, the appropriate copies have been enclosed. With respect to these records, please note that the department does not possess letters, dated August 15 and 18,
2011, addressed to Ministers Joe Oliver and Shawn Skinner, as referenced on page 34 of this response package. The only relevant correspondence in the department’s possession from this timeframe is a letter dated August 18, 2011 addressed to Minister Shawn Skinner only, which has been included.

Section 43 of the Act provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this partial refusal of access or you may appeal the refusal to the Supreme Court Trial Division. A request to the Information and Privacy Commissioner shall be made in writing within 60 days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner.

The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
34 Pippy Place
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John’s, NL. A1B 3V8
Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

In the event that you choose to appeal to the Supreme Court, you must do so within 30 days of the date of this letter. Section 60 of the Act sets out the process to be followed when filing such an appeal.

Please be advised that these responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Office of Public Engagement's website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the department’s ATIPP Coordinator at (709) 729-3214.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

CHARLES W. BOWN
Deputy Minister

Copy to Tanya Noseworthy
December 14, 2010

Suncor Energy Inc.
Suite 201, Scotia Centre
235 Water Street
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador
A1C 1B6

Dear [Name]

I am sure you are aware of the December 13th statement by Premier Dunderdale regarding the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s support for Recommendation 29 of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase I Report, namely the establishment of a “… separate agency to regulate safety in the offshore industry …”. The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board takes its direction from the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador under the Atlantic Accord legislation. The creation of a separate agency to regulate safety will likely require amendments to this legislation.

We will support and assist Governments in any way they feel might be helpful if they collectively choose to establish the separate agency to regulate safety. However, until that agency is created and fully functional, we will maintain our current regulation of the safety of the offshore workforce as our highest priority. So, from your point of view as operators and licence holders, we are still your regulator, and it will be to us that you will continue to answer regarding any issues affecting the safety of your workforce. We expect, and will demand, your full commitment and attention to safety as your top priority.

Sincerely,

Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

c.c. Minister Christian Paradis
Minister Shawn Skinner
December 14, 2010

Statoil Canada Ltd.
600 Scotia Centre
235 Water Street
St. John's, NL
A1C 1B6

Dear [Name],

I am sure you are aware of the December 13th statement by Premier Dunderdale regarding the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's support for Recommendation 29 of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase I Report, namely the establishment of a "...separate agency to regulate safety in the offshore industry...". The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board takes its direction from the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador under the Atlantic Accord legislation. The creation of a separate agency to regulate safety will likely require amendments to this legislation.

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Sincerely,

Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

cc. Minister Christian Paradis
    Minister Shawn Skinner

Fifth Floor, TD Place, 140 Water Street, St. John's, NL, Canada A1C 6H6
Telephone (709) 778-1400 Fax (709) 778-1473
December 14, 2010

Husky Energy
Suite 901, Scotia Centre
235 Water Street
A1C 1B6

Dear [Name S. 30(1)]

I am sure you are aware of the December 13th statement by Premier Dunderdale regarding the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s support for Recommendation 29 of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase I Report, namely the establishment of a “... separate agency to regulate safety in the offshore industry ...”. The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board takes its direction from the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador under the Atlantic Accord legislation. The creation of a separate agency to regulate safety will likely require amendments to this legislation.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

C.C. Minister Christian Paradis
Minister Shawn Skinner

Fifth Floor, TD Place, 140 Water Street, St. John’s, NL, Canada A1C 6H6
Telephone (709) 778-1400 Fax (709) 778-1473
December 14, 2010

Hibernia Management & Development Co. Ltd.
Suite 1000, Cabot Place
100 New Gower Street
St. John's, Newfoundland
A1C 6K3

Dear [Redacted],

I am sure you are aware of the December 13th statement by Premier Dunderdale regarding the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s support for Recommendation 29 of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase I Report, namely the establishment of a “… separate agency to regulate safety in the offshore industry …”.

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Sincerely,

Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

c.c. Minister Christian Paradis

Fifth Floor, TD Place, 140 Water Street, St. John’s, NL, Canada A1C 6H6
Telephone (709) 778-1400 Fax (709) 778-1473
December 14, 2010

ExxonMobil
Suite 1000, Cabot Place
100 New Gower Street
St. John's, Newfoundland
A1C 5K3

Dear [Name],

I am sure you are aware of the December 13th statement by Premier Dunderdale regarding the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's support for Recommendation 29 of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase I Report, namely the establishment of a "...separate agency to regulate safety in the offshore industry...". The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board takes its direction from the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador under the Atlantic Accord legislation. The creation of a separate agency to regulate safety will likely require amendments to this legislation.

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Sincerely,

Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

c.c. Minister Christian Paradis
Minister Shawn Skinner
December 14, 2010

Chevron Canada
Suite 701, Atlantic Place
215 Water Street
Box 79
St. John's, NL
A1C 6C9

Dear [Redacted]

I am sure you are aware of the December 13th statement by Premier Dunderdale regarding the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s support for Recommendation 29 of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase I Report, namely the establishment of a “... separate agency to regulate safety in the offshore industry ...”. The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board takes its direction from the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador under the Atlantic Accord legislation. The creation of a separate agency to regulate safety will likely require amendments to this legislation.

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Sincerely,

Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

c.c. Minister Christian Paradis
    Minister Shawn Skinner

Fifth Floor, TD Place, 140 Water Street, St. John’s, NL, Canada A1C 6H6
Telephone (709) 778-1400 Fax (709) 778-1473
December 14, 2010

Corridor Resources Inc.
#301, 5475 Spring Garden Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3T2

Dear [Name],

I am sure you are aware of the December 13th statement by Premier Dunderdale regarding the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s support for Recommendation 29 of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase I Report, namely the establishment of a “... separate agency to regulate safety in the offshore industry ...”. The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board takes its direction from the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador under the Atlantic Accord legislation. The creation of a separate agency to regulate safety will likely require amendments to this legislation.

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Sincerely,

Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

c.c. Minister Christian Paradis
     Minister Shawn Skinner

Fifth Floor, TD Place, 140 Water Street, St. John’s, NL, Canada A1C 6H6
Telephone (709) 778-1400 Fax (709) 778-1473
December 14, 2010

Canadian Imperial Venture Corp.
139 Water Street, Fortis Building
5th Floor, Suite 503
P.O. Box 6232, Station C
St. John's, NL
A1C 6J9

Dear [Redacted]

I am sure you are aware of the December 13th statement by Premier Dunderdale regarding the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's support for Recommendation 29 of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase I Report, namely the establishment of a "... separate agency to regulate safety in the offshore industry ...". The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board takes its direction from the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador under the Atlantic Accord legislation. The creation of a separate agency to regulate safety will likely require amendments to this legislation.

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Sincerely,

Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

c.c. Minister Christian Paradis
    Minister Shawn Skinner ✓
December 14, 2010

Dear [Name],

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Sincerely,

Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

cc. Minister Christian Paradis
   Minister Shawn Skinner

Fifth Floor, TD Place, 140 Water Street, St. John’s, NL, Canada A1C 6H6
Telephone (709) 778-1400 Fax (709) 778-1473
December 14, 2010

Det Norske Veritas
Suite 902, TD Place
140 Water Street
St. John’s, NL
A1C 6H6

Dear [Name]

I am sure you are aware of the December 13th statement by Premier Dunderdale regarding the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s support for Recommendation 29 of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase I Report, namely the establishment of a “… separate agency to regulate safety in the offshore industry …”. The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board takes its direction from the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador under the Atlantic Accord legislation. The creation of a separate agency to regulate safety will likely require amendments to this legislation.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]
Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

C.C. Minister Christian Paradis
Minister Shawn Skinner

Fifth Floor, TD Place, 140 Water Street, St. John’s, NL, Canada A1C 6H6
Telephone (709) 778-1400 Fax (709) 778-1473
December 14, 2010

Lloyd’s Register of Shipping
Suite 305, TD Place
140 Water Street
St. John’s, NL
A1C 6H6

Dear [Name],

I am sure you are aware of the December 13th statement by Premier Dunderdale regarding the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s support for Recommendation 29 of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase I Report, namely the establishment of a “… separate agency to regulate safety in the offshore industry …”. The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board takes its direction from the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador under the Atlantic Accord legislation. The creation of a separate agency to regulate safety will likely require amendments to this legislation.

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Sincerely,

Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

c.c. Minister Christian Paradis
Minister Shawn Skinner

Fifth Floor, TD Place, 140 Water Street, St. John’s, NL, Canada A1C 6H6
Telephone (709) 778-1400   Fax (709) 778-1473
December 14, 2010

ConocoPhillips Canada Resources Corp.
P.O. Box 130
401 – 9th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB
T2P 2H7

Dear [Redacted]

I am sure you are aware of the December 13th statement by Premier Dunderdale regarding the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s support for Recommendation 29 of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase 1 Report, namely the establishment of a “… separate agency to regulate safety in the offshore industry …”. The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board takes its direction from the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador under the Atlantic Accord legislation. The creation of a separate agency to regulate safety will likely require amendments to this legislation.

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Sincerely,

Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

c.c. Minister Christian Paradis
    Minister Shawn Skinner
December 14, 2010

ExxonMobil Canada Properties Ltd.
Suite 701, 215 Water Street
St. John's, NL
A1C 6C9

Dear [Redacted],

I am sure you are aware of the December 13th statement by Premier Dunderdale regarding the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s support for Recommendation 29 of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase I Report, namely the establishment of a “… separate agency to regulate safety in the offshore industry …”. The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board takes its direction from the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador under the Atlantic Accord legislation. The creation of a separate agency to regulate safety will likely require amendments to this legislation.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]
Max Ruelokke, P.Eng.
Chairman & CEO

cc. Minister Christian Paradis
Minister Shawn Skinner

Fifth Floor, TD Place, 140 Water Street, St. John’s, NL, Canada A1C 6H6
Telephone (709) 778-1400   Fax (709) 778-1473
December 14, 2010

NWest Energy Inc.
8th Floor, Baine Johnston Centre
10 Fort William Place
St. John's, NL
A1C 1K4

Dear [Redacted]

I am sure you are aware of the December 13th statement by Premier Dunderdale regarding the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's support for Recommendation 29 of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase I Report, namely the establishment of a "... separate agency to regulate safety in the offshore industry ...". The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board takes its direction from the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador under the Atlantic Accord legislation. The creation of a separate agency to regulate safety will likely require amendments to this legislation.

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Sincerely,

Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

cc. Minister Christian Paradis
Minister Shawn Skinner

Fifth Floor, TD Place, 140 Water Street, St. John's, NL, Canada A1C 6H6
Telephone (709) 778-1400 Fax (709) 778-1473
December 14, 2010

Investcan Energy Corp.
3rd Floor, 335 Duckworth Street
St. John's, NL
A1C 1G9

Dear [Redacted]

I am sure you are aware of the December 13th statement by Premier Dunderdale regarding the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s support for Recommendation 29 of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase I Report, namely the establishment of a “… separate agency to regulate safety in the offshore industry …”. The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board takes its direction from the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador under the Atlantic Accord legislation. The creation of a separate agency to regulate safety will likely require amendments to this legislation.

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Sincerely,

Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

cc. Minister Christian Paradis
    Minister Shawn Skinner
December 14, 2010

PDI Production Inc.
36 Quidi Vidi Road
St. John’s, NL
A1A 1C1

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am sure you are aware of the December 13th statement by Premier Dunderdale regarding the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s support for Recommendation 29 of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase I Report, namely the establishment of a “... separate agency to regulate safety in the offshore industry ...”. The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board takes its direction from the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador under the Atlantic Accord legislation. The creation of a separate agency to regulate safety will likely require amendments to this legislation.

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Sincerely,

Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

c.c. Minister Christian Paradis
     Minister Shawn Skinner

Fifth Floor, TD Place, 140 Water Street, St. John’s, NL, Canada A1C 6H6
 Telephone (709) 778-1400  Fax (709) 778-1473
December 14, 2010

Ptarmigan Energy Inc.
861 Torbay Road
Torbay, NL
A1K 1A2

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am sure you are aware of the December 13th statement by Premier Dunderdale regarding the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s support for Recommendation 29 of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase I Report, namely the establishment of a “... separate agency to regulate safety in the offshore industry ...”. The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board takes its direction from the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador under the Atlantic Accord legislation. The creation of a separate agency to regulate safety will likely require amendments to this legislation.

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Max Ruelokke, P. Eng.
Chairman & CEO

c.c. Minister Christian Paradis
Minister Shawn Skinner

Fifth Floor, TD Place, 140 Water Street, St. John’s, NL, Canada A1C 6H6
Telephone (709) 778-1400 Fax (709) 778-1473
February 18, 2011

Mr. Max Ruelokke
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
Fifth Floor, 140 Water Street
St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador A1C 6H6

Dear Mr. Ruelokke:

Thank you for your letter of November 23, 2010, also addressed to the Honourable Kathy Dunderdale, former Minister of Natural Resources of Newfoundland and Labrador, regarding Recommendation 29 of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry.

The safety of workers in Canada’s offshore oil and gas industry and the protection of the environment is the overriding priority for the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

We recognize that the land tenure and safety functions of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (CNLOPB) currently operate as separate groups. As noted in the recent letter on the CNLOPB budget, the Government of Canada continues to support work related to the Wells Inquiry.

The federal and provincial governments will continue to discuss and assess Recommendation 29 in further detail. As these discussions progress, we will consult with the Board on legislative and regulatory changes if any are proposed.

Again, thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Signed by

HON. Christian Paradis

The Honourable Christian Paradis, P.C., M.P. (Mégantic–L’Érable)

c.c.: The Honourable Shawn Skinner, M.H.A.
Minister of Natural Resources and
Minister responsible for the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
March 15, 2011

Serge Dupont  
Deputy Minister  
Natural Resources Canada  
Sir William Logan Building  
580 Booth Street, 21st Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4

Richard Wardle  
Deputy Minister (A)  
NL Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resources Building  
50 Elizabeth Avenue, 7th Floor  
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Mr. Dupont and Mr. Wardle:

Re: Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry (OHSI)
Recommendation 29:
(a) Establishment of a new, independent, stand-alone Safety Regulator to regulate safety in the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore area; or
(b) Make changes within the existing legislation to enhance the regulation of safety

The purpose of this letter is to provide CAPP’s perspective on the Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry (OHSI) Recommendation 29, which we understand is currently under consideration by the federal government and provincial government of Newfoundland and Labrador. This correspondence is also being copied to the Nova Scotia Deputy Minister of Energy given the potential implications for the Inquiry recommendation in the Nova Scotia offshore.

Our shared goal is to ensure a high standard of safety for the offshore. The key consideration is how this can best be achieved from a functional perspective. To this end, CAPP believes that sound safety management is inextricably linked to a broader understanding of the industrial endeavour from concept through design and ultimately throughout operations. This integrated approach ensures that all parties to a project have safety performance fully embedded in their work. Industry safety professionals are better informed on risks, resulting in superior risk and safety management practices. We believe this notion of functional integration is equally important within the regulatory framework.

Regulatory excellence is best served by a comprehensive knowledge of the whole. Knowledge of the broader regulatory scope, be it technical engineering specifications, environmental protection measures or specific safety requirements will benefit the safety regulator in performing its job.
Essentially, we believe functional integration (i.e., integration of the health/environment/safety and operations functions) is an imperative, irrespective of the governance structure related to safety integration. CAPP believes the current single regulator approach is the most effective means by which to achieve functional integration. If a decision by governments instead leads to the establishment of a new, stand-alone safety regulator for the NL offshore, we strongly encourage both levels of government to ensure that functional integration is achieved within this governance structure. Transference of authority should not occur until this issue is fully addressed. There is also certainly merit in determining whether and/or how other jurisdictions value and achieve functional integration. Several CAPP members have experience in other offshore jurisdictions and, through CAPP, will provide their assessment as to how those jurisdictions approach functional integration.

CAPP interprets the notion of independence of the safety regulator as the critical element posed in recommendation 29. This is a governance question that, in principle, CAPP supports. A safety regulator should have the autonomy to act promptly, and without interference or distraction, to ensure worker or public safety. Our caution lies in the notion that this autonomy can only be achieved by the formation of a new, stand-alone safety regulator. It is CAPP’s view that the current governance model provides autonomy to the Safety Officers within the Offshore Petroleum Boards to make safety-related decisions without encumbrance from their Board. We recommend you consider whether this is being achieved, or can be enhanced, within the current regulatory construct in a manner which meets the intent of Recommendation 29. In the experience of CAPP member companies, the C-NLOPB has been very effective at engaging operators and holding them accountable for achieving safe operations. This applies to both granting approvals and monitoring operations. Board safety representatives regularly conduct inspections and audits and track resulting actions to completion. To be clear, CAPP’s recommendation reflects our support for the notion of independence, while at the same time reflecting our view that safety competency is maximized through functional integration.

In summary, CAPP believes:

- That functional integration is key to optimizing and maintaining a high standard of safety regulation;
- That independent or autonomous safety regulation is imperative;
- That the current single regulator governance structure in the form of the Offshore Petroleum Boards provides for the autonomy of the Safety Officer;
- That governments should satisfy themselves that this autonomy exists, or should consider how it could be enhanced, to meet the intent of Recommendation 29; and,
- That governments should consider how functional integration will continue to be realized in the event a decision is taken to establish a new, stand-alone safety regulator.
CAPP, on behalf of its members, appreciates the opportunity to provide its views on this matter. This issue is of much importance to CAPP and its members, and in this regard, we would appreciate an opportunity for consultation throughout your assessment and decision making process.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

c.c. Mr. Max Ruelokke, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board

Mr. Stuart Pinks, Chief Executive Officer  
Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board

Mr. Murray Coolican, Deputy Minister  
Nova Scotia Department of Energy

CAPP Atlantic Canada Executive Policy Group
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
2100, 350 – 7th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB T2P 3N9

Dear

Re: Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry (OHSI) - Recommendation 29

Thank you for your letter of March 15, 2011, outlining your organization’s perspective on the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry’s (OHSI) Recommendation 29.

As you are aware, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has accepted all of OHSI’s recommendations, including the aspect of Recommendation 29 that called for the establishment of a new, independent, stand-alone safety regulator to regulate safety in the offshore area. We continue to have discussions with the Federal Government on the best approaches to fully implement this recommendation, and it is our firm view that the establishment of the regulator will enhance the safety of those who work in the offshore, a goal which we both share.

We consider CAPP, and its member organizations, to be key stakeholders in our offshore industry and, as such, we will certainly give your perspective and comments due consideration as we move forward with discussions on the implementation of this recommendation.

Again, thank you for your letter on this very important matter.

Yours sincerely,

RICHARD WARDLE
Deputy Minister

c. Mr. Serge Dupont
Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada

Mr. Max Ruejokke, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board

Mr. Stuart Pinks, Chief Executive Officer
Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board

Mr. Murray Coolican, Deputy Minister
Nova Scotia Department of Energy

CAPP Atlantic Canada Executive Policy Group

P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, NL, Canada A1B 4J6 t 709.729.2766 f 709.729.0059
April 15, 2011

Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry
Suite 213, Tara Place
P.O. Box 8037
31 Peet Street
St. John’s NL A1B 3M7

Please find attached the original and 3 copies of the Submission to the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry (Phase II). As per your request an electronic version has also been forwarded.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the undersigned.

I trust this is satisfactory.

Regards,

[Signature]

Rolf Pritchard
Manager – Civil Litigation

/db
Attach.
April 18, 2011

Mr. Richard Wardle  
Deputy Minister  
Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resources Building  
7th Floor  
50 Elizabeth Avenue  
St. John’s, NL

Dear Mr. Wardle:

RE: Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry – Phase II Submissions

Please find enclosed 4 copies of the Phase II Submission of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Best regards,

[Signature]
Laura Brown Laenle  
Solicitor
MAY 27 2011

Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
2100, 350–7th Avenue South West
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3N9

Thank you for your letter of March 15, 2011, regarding the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers’ (CAPP) views on Recommendation 29 of the Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry.

The health and safety of offshore workers and the protection of the environment are of paramount importance for the Government of Canada. Consequently, Natural Resources Canada is committed to supporting continuous improvement of Canada’s offshore regulatory regime.

We are currently analyzing Commissioner Robert Well’s recommendations and are in discussions with our counterparts in the governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia regarding the governance structure of Canada’s offshore regulators.

I appreciate the views expressed by CAPP on behalf of the offshore operator community, and recognize the importance of stakeholder consultation as we move forward.

Again, thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Serge P. Dupont
c.c.: Mr. Richard Wardle  
Deputy Minister of Natural Resources  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  

Mr. Murray Coolican  
Deputy Minister of Energy  
Government of Nova Scotia  

Mr. Max Ruelokke  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Canada–Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board  

Mr. Stuart Pinks  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canada–Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board
May 31, 2011

Honourable Joe Oliver
Minister of Natural Resources
House of Commons
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Oliver:

I am writing to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Natural Resources. I sincerely look forward to working with you on several issues of importance to the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Please allow me to highlight a number of these priority issues.

Federal Support for Phase 1 of the Lower Churchill Project – Muskrat Falls
On a campaign stop in St. John’s on March 31, 2011, Prime Minister Harper announced that a Conservative Government would provide a loan guarantee or equivalent financial support for the Lower Churchill hydroelectric project. This commitment was reiterated in the Conservative Party’s policy platform document Here For Canada. I am looking forward to engaging in discussions with you on this issue.

Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry
In December 2010, Justice Robert Wells made 29 recommendations following his Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry. Our government supports all recommendations including the recommendation to establish a new, independent stand-alone safety regulator, which will require amendments to federal and provincial Accord Acts. In a letter to Premier Dunderdale, the Prime Minister indicated his support for the intent of this recommendation.

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Bill
Officials from the federal government, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador have made great progress toward concluding this important project, and which would have the effect of amending the Atlantic Accords to provide for a comprehensive OHS regime in the NL offshore area.
Hibernia Shares
The Canada Hibernia Holding Corporation (CHHC), on behalf of the federal government, currently holds an 8.5% equity share in the Hibernia project. Our government remains firmly committed to purchasing this ownership share to ensure that Newfoundland and Labrador is the principal beneficiary of oil and gas development in our offshore.

NL-Quebec Maritime Boundary
With respect to the offshore agreement between Quebec and the federal government that was concluded in March 2011, I must note that any agreement between Quebec and the federal government must be compatible with the Atlantic Accord and its implementing legislation, which have governed oil and gas development offshore Newfoundland and Labrador for 25 years. The agreement with Quebec also includes a definition of the Accord area, which closely resembles a line that was discussed by the Atlantic Provinces and Quebec in 1964. I want to be clear that there are no agreed boundaries between the offshore areas of Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Once again, congratulations on your appointment to the position of Minister of Natural Resources, and I look forward to working with you to ensure that these items are addressed in a timely fashion.

Yours sincerely,

SHAWN SKINNER
Minister

c. Honourable Kathy Dunderdale, Premier
Honourable Peter Penashue, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Mr. Max Ruelokke  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Canada–Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board  
Fifth Floor, TD Place  
140 Water Street  
St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador A1C 6H6

Dear Mr. Ruelokke:

Thank you for your letters of December 13, 2010, January 26, March 9 and June 2, 2011, regarding funding requirements of the Canada–Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (CNLOPB).

The Honourable Shawn Skinner, Minister of Natural Resources, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and I have had our officials conduct a thorough review of your budget submissions. On the basis of their analysis, we have agreed that the CNLOPB should re-allocate the 2010–2011 operating budget surplus to cover the costs of the CNLOPB’s 2010–2011 response to the recommendations of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry (OHSI). I also wish to convey that we have agreed that the budgetary resources requested for 2011–2012, including for Phase II of the OHSI, accurately reflect the CNLOPB’s needs and will be supported.

Pursuant to section 27 of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Atlantic Accord Implementation Act, I hereby approve the CNLOPB’s 2011–2012 budget at $15,912,000. This amount includes an operating budget of $13,700,000 plus an additional $1,812,000 to respond to the OHSI recommendations, and $400,000 to complete Phase II of the OHSI’s work and wind-up operations. The Government of Canada’s 50 percent share of the 2011–2012 budget is therefore $7,956,000. My approval is based on the understanding that the CNLOPB will recover up to 75 percent of the budget from industry in accordance with the Cost Recovery Guidelines.
I also want to thank you for the copy of the CNLOPB’s 2011–2012 Business Plan. It very much addresses the challenges that have arisen in the wake of the tragic crash of Cougar helicopter flight 491 and the Macondo oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. In this context, the CNLOPB’s efforts to respond to recommendation 29 of the OHSI in fiscal year 2011–2012, while governments review the broader implications of the recommendation in terms of changing the CNLOPB’s mandate and structure, are particularly appreciated.

Again, thank you for writing on this important matter and I wish the CNLOPB every success in fiscal year 2011–2012.

Yours sincerely,

Original Signed by
HON. Joe Oliver
a signé l’original

The Honourable Joe Oliver, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Shawn Skinner, M.H.A.
Minister of Natural Resources
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
The Honourable Shawn Skinner, M.H.A.
Minister of Natural Resources and
Minister responsible for the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador A1B 4J6

Dear Minister:

Thank you for your letter of May 31, 2011, in which you congratulate me on my appointment as Minister of Natural Resources, and outline several issues of importance to Newfoundland and Labrador which fall under my portfolio. I enjoyed our discussions at the recent ministerial meetings in Kananaskis, and look forward to working with you on the broad range of issues that are part of our federal-provincial relationship and, particularly, those raised by our shared management of offshore resources. In response to your letter and further to our discussions, I offer the following:

**Lower Churchill Project—Muskrat Falls**

The Lower Churchill Project represents an excellent opportunity for Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and the other Atlantic provinces to reduce greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions while meeting growing electricity demand. In its Speech from the Throne, the Government of Canada committed to providing support for the project, and I am pleased that our officials have been able to finalize a memorandum of agreement in recent days. As discussed in Kananaskis, we will be engaging financial advisors to assist the Government in the implementation of this commitment.

**Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry**

I understand that officials from our respective departments are engaged in formal discussions regarding the implementation of Recommendation 29. I look forward to further discussion with you on this issue.

Canada
Federal Government Equity Share in Hibernia

With respect to the federal interests in Hibernia, I have taken the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to my colleague, the Honourable James Michael Flaherty, Minister of Finance, as he is responsible for managing the federal government's ownership of the 8.5-percent working interest in the Hibernia Project.

Newfoundland and Labrador—Quebec Maritime Administrative Boundary

The Canada—Quebec Accord includes a path for resolving any dispute among provinces that is consistent with the approach taken when negotiating the Accords with Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia. As such, where a dispute arises between provinces that are parties to an agreement, the provinces should first try to resolve the dispute bilaterally through negotiations. If negotiations, mediation or other means are unsuccessful, the Accords provide for appropriate arbitration measures to settle the dispute.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Joe Oliver, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable James Michael Flaherty, M.P., P.C.
Minister of Finance

The Honourable Peter Penashue, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
August 18, 2011

Department of Natural Resources
7th Floor, Natural Resources Building
50 Elizabeth Ave.
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Attention: Honourable Shawn Skinner

Dear Minister Skinner:

Re: Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase 2 Report Recommendations

I am writing to formally convey to you the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Phase 2 Report. This report contains four recommendations. Of these, one is directed to the Parliament of Canada and the Legislature of Newfoundland and Labrador, as follows:

4. It is recommended that an independent offshore safety regulator be given a new and expanded mandate. Its mandate should be an all-encompassing oversight role to consult with any persons or entities, regulatory or otherwise, with regard to offshore safety issues and to take action or actions as may be necessary in the interests of safety and transparency. An independent offshore safety regulator should be complemented and strengthened by an Advisory Board of mature citizens as I recommended in Phase 1.

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board will be pleased to assist Governments in any useful way we can as you respond to this recommendation.

Yours truly,

Max Ruelokke, P.Eng.
Chairman & CEO
SEP 2 1 2011

Mr. Max Ruelokke
Chair and Chief Executive Officer
Canada—Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
5th Floor, TD Place
140 Water Street
St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador  A1C 6H6

Dear Mr. Ruelokke:

Thank you for your letters of August 15 and 18, 2011, addressed to me and the Honourable Shawn Skinner, Minister of Natural Resources, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, enclosing copies of the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry Report, Phase II and supporting documents. I look forward to your briefing on the implementation strategy and next steps.

In the meantime, we are currently reviewing the recommendations, including Recommendation 4.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

The Honourable Joe Oliver, P.C., M.P.

cc.: The Honourable Shawn Skinner, M.H.A.
     Minister of Natural Resources
     Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
March 12, 2013

Honourable Joe Oliver, P.C., M.P.,
Minister of Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0B4

Dear Minister Oliver:

Thank you for your letter of congratulations and I’m looking forward to working with you on issues of national and provincial interest.

I am particularly eager to continue our collaboration on the development of the Muskrat Falls Project. Coupled with the Maritime Link, this project will provide tremendous regional economic and environmental benefits. S. 23(1)(a)

I would like to raise one issue with you at this opportunity, and that is the implementation of Recommendation 29 from the Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador supports the establishment of a separate safety regulatory for the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore area, and is prepared to continue to work with the Government of Canada to implement this important initiative.

Again, thank you for your best wishes on my appointment, and I look forward to meeting you to continue our discussions on these and other priority issues.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Marshall, Q.C.
Minister of Natural Resources