

Friday, July 16, 2010

Anne-Marie Erickson
Secretary of the Board
National Energy Board
444 Seventh Avenue, SW
Calgary, AB
T2P 0X8

by Fax: 403-292-5503 or 1-877-288-8803

Dear Ms Erickson,

Re: YCS comments on the preliminary scope of the Public Review of Arctic Safety and Environmental Offshore Drilling Requirements – File OF-EP-Gen-AODR 01

Please accept this letter as comments from the Yukon Conservation Society (YCS) on the scope of the Public Review of Arctic Safety and Environmental Offshore Drilling Requirements. YCS applied electronically to participate in the Review on June 15, 2010.

YCS agrees with all the points made by Alternatives North in its submission on the Review scope. The Review appears to be designed to determine how best to proceed with offshore fossil fuel production in the Arctic without first examining whether it should happen at all. YCS has no confidence that fossil fuel companies will take the necessary precautions to ensure the sensitive Arctic environment is not irreparably damaged by oil and gas activities and potential accidents resulting from them.

YCS respectfully submits to the National Energy Board that the scope of this review must include all phases of oil and gas activity – from the initial government call for bids, to leasing, to exploration and seismic activities, to drilling and production, to decommissioning.

Further, YCS submits that offshore oil and gas activities already happening in other jurisdictions could have catastrophic consequences for Canada's North because of trade winds and ocean currents. Offshore oil and gas activities are taking place off Greenland's west coast, Alaska's Beaufort Sea region and by other circumpolar nations further away. Canada must be prepared to deal with impacts resulting from accidents in other jurisdictions brought to Canadian waters by weather and ice movement. This must also be addressed in the scope of the Review.

In addition to hearings being held in as many northern communities as possible, YCS would like to ensure that participation in the Review is also made possible via web- or tele-conference.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the scope. We look forward to receiving more information and taking part in the Review.

If you have any questions please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

signed copy faxed July 16, 2010

Anne Middler
Energy Coordinator
Yukon Conservation Society
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