



NUNATSIAVUT
kavamanga Government

Nunaligninikmik amma Nunamiutanik
Ujaganik Imaniklu
Lands and Natural Resources

March 18, 2020

Robin Boychuk
Senior Consultation Analyst, Atlantic Region
Newfoundland and Labrador Satellite Office 301-10 Barter's Hill
St. John's NL A1C 6M1
iaac.westflemish-flamandeouest.aeic@canada.ca

Re: Comments on the Review of the Environmental Impact Statement Summary for the West Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling Project

Dear Robin Boychuk,

This letter is a response to your correspondence dated Feb. 17, 2020, requesting comments from the Nunatsiavut Government regarding the Environmental Impact Statement from Chevron Canada Limited's proposed exploration drill program in the West Flemish Pass Area. The Nunatsiavut Government has reviewed the EIS in reference to both our previous comments of May 7, 2019 as well as the three key areas outlined in your letter.

Our previous concern from the May 7, 2019 letter has yet to be addressed. The concern is that the EIS uses information found in the Eastern Newfoundland Strategic Environmental Assessment to assess the existing environment as well as assess impacts to VECs, but does not identify how any mitigation and monitoring programs (such as the acoustic and drill cutting discharge monitoring programs proposed in this EIS) would be incorporated back into existing Strategic EAs or the Regional Environmental Assessment currently underway. Also concerning environmental monitoring and follow-up (notably section 8.6, 10.6, 12.6), there should be broader engagement, involving the Nunatsiavut government and other indigenous groups in future developments, especially for species of economic and cultural importance. Furthermore, in the context of uncertainties acknowledged in the EIS as well as ongoing studies (12.3.4), the conclusions of section 12.6 on the absence of needs for monitoring and follow-up measures are, at best, premature.

Pages 7-83 and 7-84 of the EIS acknowledges the importance of subsistence harvesting to Nunatsiavummiut. Table 7.22 in the EIS states that "the Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Labrador Inuit do not extend to the lands and waters in or near the Project Area." However, Page 12-16 in the EIS states that "the pathway for a Project effect causing a change in the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes is therefore tied to effects on migratory species which may occur in the Project Area or LAA." Therefore, any impact of the project, such as a large oil spill, to the migratory species that Labrador Inuit may harvest within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area constitutes an impact to those rights, and the EIS should reflect this. It also constitutes an economic loss due to the high cost of purchased food in our communities. This is why the Nunatsiavut Government has requested being a part of the *development* of the Fisheries Communication Plan and the compensation program, which should include potential impacts to migratory species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me with any further questions.

<Original signed by>

Claude Sheppard
Director of Non- Renewable Resources
Nunatsiavut Government