

Central Ridge Exploration Drilling Project
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
200-1801 Hollis Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3N4

SUBJECT: Qalipu First Nation Comments on the Potential Environmental Effects of the Proposed Central Ridge Exploration Drilling Program

To whom it may concern:

The purpose of this letter is to provide comments on the potential environmental effects of the proposed Central Ridge Exploration Drilling Program as described by Equinor Canada in its EIS Summary.

Qalipu First Nation (QFN) represents approximately 24,000 registered members in Newfoundland and abroad and is made up of 67 traditional Mi'kmaq communities across Newfoundland. As a band, we provide core programs and service to our members, including Natural Resources Management. Specific to the Proposed Central Ridge Exploration Drilling Program, QFN and affiliates maintain fishing licences overlapping/adjacent to the Project area.

The potential environmental effects as described in the EIS Summary provided by Equinor Canada may have adverse effects on marine-associated species and other resources of cultural, historical, and traditional importance. All potentially affected species listed within the EIS are of concern. Mi'kmaq people have no assumptions of superiority over other life forms. All of creation is sacred and should be treated with respect and honor.

We hope to see safe practice and regulations enforced on the Proponent to maintain and increase environmental protections and reduce the likelihood of adverse effects. QFN would like to see better information sharing in the event of an incident and in follow-up reporting. The public should remain informed throughout any spill response as well as monitoring programs to ensure the Proponent is following proper protocol and that routine activities are not having negative effects on the environment. Better transparency is imperative in these large-scale projects and we expect to be frequently informed by the Proponent in the event of any accidents, malfunctions, and through monitoring programs.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Chief Brendan Mitchell