



Environmental Health Program (EHP) Atlantic Region
Regulatory Operations and Enforcement Branch
Suite 1625, 1505 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3Y6

June 5, 2023

Trevor Ford
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)
200-1801 Hollis Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3N4

Subject: Health Canada's technical review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Tilt Cove Exploration Drilling Project

Dear Trevor Ford:

Health Canada (HC) is participating in the environmental assessment review of the Tilt Cove Exploration Drilling Project as a Federal Authority under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*.

As requested on May 1, 2023, HC has undertaken a technical review of the Tilt Cove Exploration Drilling Project (Project) related to HC's following areas of expertise:

- Human health risk assessment,
- Human health impacts from noise,
- Contamination of country foods, and
- Air quality health effects.

Suncor's EIS identifies potential risks to human health in relation to the consumption of marine organisms potentially impacted by oil spills, including impact of mitigation measures (e.g.: use of dispersants), and the need for monitoring:

"Specific environmental effects monitoring and follow-up programs may be required in the unlikely event of spill. These monitoring programs will be developed in consultation with applicable regulatory agencies, Indigenous communities, and fisheries stakeholders, as applicable" (Section 16.6.5.2).

As discussed during the Tilt Cove Technical Review meeting with the IAAC and the federal authorities held on May 24, 2023, HC does not have any specific or new information request pertaining to the Project. However, HC would like to reiterate the comments previously shared on the following projects:

- Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador
- West Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling Project
- Central Ridge Exploration Drilling Project
- BHP Canada Exploration Drilling Project

Sent by email to: tiltcove@iaac-aeic.gc.ca and Trevor.Ford@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

The comments shared for these past projects can be summarized as follows:

- Lack of consideration of potential impacts to human health associated with consumption by Indigenous communities of marine species that may be contaminated by spilled oil and/or dispersants; and
- It is recommended that, as part of spill response and mitigation plans, contaminants of potential concern are identified and sampling and monitoring plans be developed for country foods, including marine species, that are important to Indigenous communities.

Additionally, it is recommended that HC be consulted during the elaboration of the Emergency Response Plan and the Oil Spill Response Plan. In the event of a major marine oil spill, Health Canada's role is to provide scientific support to provincial public health authorities and other federal departments to assist them in assessing, managing and mitigating potential population health effects; more specifically, in the areas of air quality, drinking and recreational water quality, and the contamination of country foods. More information can be found in the following document: [Guidance for the Environmental Public Health Management of Crude Oil Incidents](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at your convenience.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

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