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CANADA – NOVA SCOTIA OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD

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To: All Offshore Oil and Gas Operators under the Jurisdiction of the Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB), Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (Atlantic Canada), International Association of Geophysical Contractors, Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors and All Interested Parties

Re: **Statement of Canadian Practice with Respect to the Mitigation of Seismic Sound in the Marine Environment**

Federal and provincial governments recently released a Statement of Canadian Practice with Respect to the Mitigation of Seismic Sound in the Marine Environment (Statement) and an accompanying Background Paper. The Statement contains a set of mitigation measures which can assist in minimizing the potential adverse impacts of seismic activity that use air source arrays in non-ice covered marine waters. The federal government has made the Statement and Background paper available on the internet at www.dfompo.gc.ca/oceans-habitat/oceans/im-gi/seismic-sismique/index_e.asp. The Statement is also available on the CNSOPB's website at www.cnsopb.ns.ca. A copy of the Statement is attached for your information.

The CNSOPB regulates seismic activities under the *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act*, the *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation (Nova Scotia) Act*, and the *Nova Scotia Offshore Area Petroleum Geophysical Operations Regulations*.

Companies planning to carry out seismic activities under CNSOPB jurisdiction should become familiar with the Statement. The mitigative measures contained in the Statement were developed based on available scientific knowledge and can be considered to be current best practice for minimizing potential adverse impacts of seismic activities that use air source arrays. Applications for authorizations to conduct seismic operations, and related environmental assessment documents, should recognize the Standard as best practice, and should clearly confirm the mitigative measures that are to be applied to such operations.

For additional information, please contact Mr. Eric Theriault, Advisor Environmental Affairs, at (902) 496-0742 or email etheriault@cnsopb.ns.ca.

Yours truly,

Steve Bigelow
Manager, Rights & Resources
Chief Conservation Officer

ET/pkw