

Security Classification:
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BP Canada Energy Group ULC



Scotian Basin Exploration Project

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012
Conditions Closure Report for Aspy Well**

Executive Summary

Unique Identifier:

CN001-EV-REP-600-00006

Rev

B01

Executive Summary

BP Canada Energy Group ULC (BP) is conducting an exploration drilling project within the area of its offshore Exploration Licences (EL) 2431, 2432, 2433, and 2434 in the offshore area of Nova Scotia. Note the four ELs were consolidated into one EL 2434R by the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB, “the Board”) after spudding the Aspy D-11 (“Aspy”) well. The Scotian Basin Exploration Drilling Project (“Project”) consists of up to up to seven exploration wells to be drilled over the period from 2018 to 2022.

In 2016, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared to fulfill the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) as the Project’s proposed drilling programs involve activities that are designated by the *Regulations Designating Physical Activities*. On February 1, 2018, a Decision Statement was released by the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change concluding that, with the implementation of applicable conditions, the Designated Project is not likely to result in significant adverse environmental effects.

In accordance with subsection 53(2) of CEAA 2012, the Decision Statement established 49 conditions in relation to the environmental effects referred to in subsection 5(2) of CEAA 2012, with which BP must comply. The conditions are grouped as per the following themes:

- General conditions [Conditions 2.1 – 2.12]
- Fish (including marine mammals and sea turtles) and fish habitat [Conditions 3.1 – 3.13]
- Migratory birds [Conditions 4.1 – 4.5]
- Indigenous and commercial fisheries [Conditions 5.1 – 5.4]
- Accidents and malfunctions [Conditions 6.1 – 6.11]
- Implementation schedule [Conditions 7.1 – 7.2]
- Record keeping [Conditions 8.1 – 8.2]

The conditions cover a broad range of activities including the development and implementation of programs, plans and procedures, conducting stakeholder engagement, implementing monitoring and mitigation measures, and document control. Each of the 49 conditions applies to all wells, unless otherwise specified.

BP commenced the drilling of the first well, Aspy with a spud date of April 22, 2018. Drilling was completed and the well was plugged and abandoned in accordance with BP requirements and applicable regulations on December 11, 2018.

In compliance with Condition 2.8 of the Decision Statement, BP prepared the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 Conditions Closure Report for Aspy Well* (Closure Report) for submission to the Board and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (Agency). The Closure Report documents:

- activities undertaken by BP to comply with each of the conditions set out in the Decision Statement
- how BP’s actions in meeting the conditions were considered in a careful and precautionary manner, promoted sustainable development, informed by the best information and knowledge available at the time, based on methods and models recognized by standard-setting bodies, undertaken by qualified individuals, and applied the best available economically and technically feasible technologies
- how BP considered views and information received during consultation on condition implementation for conditions requiring consultation
- results of follow-up program requirements

- any modified or additional mitigation measures implemented or proposed to be implemented by BP for potential subsequent wells as part of the Project.

Throughout all phases of the drilling program at Aspy, BP has complied with the conditions outlined in the Decision Statement, as applicable.

Where consultation was a requirement of a condition set out in the Decision Statement, BP notified stakeholders and/or Indigenous groups in advance of the opportunity to provide feedback, provided a reasonable time for receiving that feedback, considered all views and information presented during consultation, and responded to questions and concerns in a timely manner. BP developed Fisheries Communication Plans in consultation with Indigenous and commercial fishers and implemented the plans to communicate Project status updates from rig mobilization, through the drilling program and to rig demobilization at the end of the Aspy drilling program.

Follow-up and monitoring programs were implemented to verify the accuracy of predictions made during the environmental assessment as it pertains to fish and fish habitat, including marine mammals and sea turtles, and migratory birds. In particular, the following follow-up and monitoring programs were implemented:

- A pre-drill survey to confirm the presence or absence of any aggregations of habitat-forming corals or sponges or any other environmentally sensitive features
- A post-drill survey to verify drill waste deposition modelling predictions
- An underwater acoustic monitoring program to verify the accuracy of predictive underwater sound modelling
- A stranded bird monitoring program conducted on the mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU) and the platform supply vessels (PSVs) to verify environmental assessment predictions and effectiveness of mitigation.

BP prepared a *Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Monitoring, Mitigation and Reporting Management Plan during Vertical Seismic Profiling*, which incorporated requirements from the *Statement of Canadian Practice with Respect to the Mitigation of Seismic Sound in the Marine Environment* (DFO 2007) as well as additional commitments made by BP during the environmental assessment process and feedback received during consultation. However, vertical seismic profiling (VSP) was not undertaken at Aspy so the Plan was not implemented for this well.

Waste discharges were in compliance with the *Offshore Waste Treatment Guidelines* (NEB et al. 2010) and in accordance with the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and where applicable, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). Selection of drilling chemicals was in accordance with the *Offshore Chemical Selection Guidelines for Drilling & Production Activities on Frontier Lands* (NEB et al. 2009).

BP developed a well abandonment plan, which included a wellhead abandonment strategy, in consultation with Indigenous and commercial fishers. BP received approval from the CNSOPB to leave the wellhead on the seafloor after well plugging and abandonment; the location of the abandoned wellhead has been communicated with Marine Communications and Traffic Services for publishing in the Notices to Shipping and to the Canadian Hydrographic Services for publishing on future nautical charts.

BP prepared an Oil Spill Response Plan which included notification and response procedures to be implemented in the event of a spill. A Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment (also referred to as a net environmental benefit analysis) was conducted by BP as part of contingency planning process for the Project to help inform the use of spill response tactics in the event of a spill. BP met with interested Indigenous groups and discussed spill prevention and emergency response, including well control strategies and spill response tactics. A series of exercises were conducted to test and validate various

aspects of the Oil Spill Response Plan and source control contingency plans prior to the commencement of drilling. No updates were required for the Oil Spill Response Plan during the drilling of Aspy. If additional wells are to be drilled as part of the Scotian Basin Exploration Project, the Oil Spill Response Plan will be reviewed and updated as required.

BP has complied with the conditions outlined within the Decision Statement as applicable. Predictions of environmental effects presented in the EIS remain valid and no corrective actions are proposed for subsequent wells that may be drilled as part of the Project.

References

- DFO [Fisheries and Oceans Canada]. 2007. Statement of Canadian Practice with Respect to the Mitigation of Seismic Sound in the Marine Environment.
- NEB, C-NLOPB, CNSOPB [National Energy Board, Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board and Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board]. 2009. Offshore Chemical Selection Guidelines for Drilling and Production Activities on Frontier Lands. 18 pp. Available from: <http://www.cnsopb.ns.ca/pdfs/chemicalguidelines.pdf>.
- NEB, C-NLOPB, CNSOPB [National Energy Board, Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board and Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board]. 2010. Offshore Waste Treatment Guidelines. 35 pp. Available from: <https://www.neb-one.gc.ca/bts/ctrq/gnthr/2010ffshrwstgd/index-eng.html>.