



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT)

October 30, 2013

John Ondrack
Chair
Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC)
Joint Secretariat – Inuvialuit Renewable Resources Committees
P.O. Box 2120
Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0

Re: Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture Drilling Program – Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited (File # 09/13-01)

Dear Mr. Ondrack,

The WMAC (NWT) (the Council) has reviewed the project description that was submitted to the EISC in September 2013 by Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited (hereby referred to as the Proponent). Please refer to the Inuvialuit Game Council's letter that was submitted to your Committee on October 25, 2013. The WMAC (NWT) concurs with the IGC and recommends the Proponent's project be referred to the Environmental Impact Review Board for further assessment. In addition, the Council would like to table the following comments on the Proponent's proposed drilling activities in the Beaufort Sea.

The area along the coast and offshore of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula is very important to numerous bird species. For example, nearly all of the Common and King Eider populations stage off the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula during the spring season. If an oil spill were to occur in this area, then there will be significant negative impacts on the entire eider population. There are significant concentrations of other bird species that could potentially be affected by the Proponent's proposed drilling activities.

The Council also has concerns regarding how potential impacts to wildlife have been addressed in the Proponent's project description. One noted concern is the lack of information on how impacts to wildlife will be addressed. For example, section 14.3.8.3 has very little information on impacts to polar bears.

There are also sections regarding wildlife that require greater clarity. For example, under section 14.2.6.1.3, Peary Caribou is referenced to a 2012 report that was prepared by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC). The Council

recommends that the 2012 Species at Risk Committee (SARC) report on Peary Caribou should be used as a starting point for a reference on Peary Caribou, as the 2012 SARC report contains updated information.

Lastly, the Council would like to note that the Proponent provided a presentation at the Council's regular meeting in March 2013. The Council expresses its appreciation of the presentation that was prepared by the Proponent.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank your Committee for considering the Council's comments on this project. If you have any concerns with this letter, please contact the Council's Resource Biologist, James Malone, at (867) 777-2828 or at wmacnwt@jointsec.nt.ca

Sincerely,



Larry Carpenter
Chair, WMAC (NWT)

CC: All WMAC (NWT) members
Frank Pokiak – Chair, Inuvialuit Game Council
Lindsay Staples – Chair, WMAC (North Slope)