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WWF-Canada

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October 29th, 2013

EIS Coordinator
Environmental Impact Screening Committee
Joint Secretariat, Inuvialuit Settlement Region
Inuvialuit Corporate Centre, Suite 204, 107 Mackenzie Road
PO Box 2120
Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada X0E 0T0

Via E-Mail: eisc@jointsec.nt.ca

Dear EIS Coordinator,

Re: WWF Party Status request (Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture Drilling Program)

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited (Imperial) has submitted a Project Description to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC) on behalf of the Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture, a partnership among Imperial, ExxonMobil Canada Ltd. and BP Exploration Operating Company Limited. The proposed development, described as the Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture Drilling Program, is to drill an unspecified number of exploration wells in EL 476, known as Ajurak, and EL 477, known as Pokak.

On behalf of WWF-Canada, I request that EISC grant WWF party status in your consideration of the proposed project.

Our reason for requesting party status (as required in Appendix B of the EISC Rules of Practice) is that we can assist the EISC, and later the EIRB, to understand and weigh the risks this project represents to the natural environment and those who rely on it.

As an organization dedicated to conserving the natural world that sustains us, WWF is actively engaged in efforts to manage the potential risks of offshore oil development. Represented by legal counsel at Ecojustice, WWF participated in the National Energy Board's Arctic Offshore Drilling Review, and consequently have an interest in the effective implementation of NEB requirements. As well, we have contributed to the work of the Arctic Council, through its Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) and Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) working groups. We are a founding member of the Beaufort Sea Partnership. Currently, we are modeling oil spill trajectories in the Beaufort Sea because we believe this project will help to inform decisions about oil spill response preparedness in the ISR.

We plan to engage Ecojustice as legal counsel to help us to participate in the EISC (and EIRB) reviews of the proposed project. We anticipate that we would make written submissions and participate in hearings as the opportunities arise. WWF-Canada staff, legal counsel and technical experts would provide evidence on technical matters, risk management and policy.

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If you have any further questions about this request please don't hesitate to contact me at 613-232-2510, or mvonmirbach@wwfcanada.org. Our mailing address for matters pertaining to this 30 Metcalfe Street, 4th floor, Ottawa ON K1P-5L4 until November 30, 2013, after which it will be 275 Slater Street, Suite 810, Ottawa ON K1P-5H9.

Thank you in advance for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Martin von Mirbach
Director, Arctic Program

Cc: Rob Powell, WWF
Will Amos, Ecojustice
Karen Campbell, Ecojustice