

Environmental management in the Newfoundland offshore

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The Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board manages the petroleum resources in the Newfoundland offshore area on behalf of the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. Its authority is derived from the legislation implementing the 1985 Atlantic Accord between the two governments. The Board is responsible for administering the offshore petroleum land rights and tenure system, ensuring activities are conducted in a safe and environmentally responsible manner, assessing petroleum resources and ensuring their conservation, and monitoring industrial and employment benefits.

The presentation will begin by briefly describing the Board's legislative mandate, the series of regulations and guidance documents that have been published under its implementing legislation, and the mechanisms by which it

interacts with other government agencies.

The presentation will describe the process by which the Board reviews and approves proposed exploration and production activities, focusing upon the latter. The interaction of this process with federal and provincial environmental assessment regimes will briefly be discussed.

The Board's expectations with respect to environmental protection planning for production operations will be enumerated, and selected examples will be given from the environmental protection plan for the Hibernia project.

The presentation will conclude with a description of oil spill response planning for offshore operations, and a summary of recent performance with reference to experience in other jurisdictions.