

Attn: Christine Bonnell-Eisnor
Director, Regulatory Affairs & Finance
Secretary of the Board
Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board
8th Floor, T.D. Centre, 1791 Barrington Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3K9
callforbids@cnsopb.ns.ca

RE: Call For Bids NS18-3

08 February, 2019

I write to you on behalf of the Council of Canadians, a grassroots social justice organization with more than 100,000 supporters across Canada that addresses environmental issues through an environmental justice perspective.

Concerns with lease areas under NS18-3

The lease areas encircle Sable Island National Park Reserve, a beautiful ecosystem that should not be threatened by industry. In addition to the marine and onshore ecology that would be threatened if these lease areas go ahead, these are important fishing grounds.

As history tells us, the formations in this area are multi-layered, high pressure and high temperature which makes the geology more dangerous. Mobil and Shell both experienced uncontrolled blowouts during their gas explorations in the 1980s.

Concerns with offshore drilling

Your responsibilities as the Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (as currently listed on [your website](#)) includes protection of the environment. From cradle to grave, this industry only does damage to the environment. Seismic research by Dr. Lindy Weilgart and others shows the severe threat to marine life. Risks of blowout and other incidents are higher than industry would have us believe - in the short few years there has been interest by industry in our offshore (most recently), there has been dropped pipe, 136,000 litres of drilling mud, and near miss incidents risking worker safety.

Emergency response plans that include a capping stack in Norway and the use of booms and Corexit for spill recovery are not only inadequate but unacceptable. These and other concerns have been raised with our elected federal and provincial governments as well.

Indigenous consultation

According to the UNDRIP, Indigenous peoples have a right to free, prior and informed consent. We expect that the CNSOPB will go above and beyond the base expectations to ensure the appropriate level of consultation occurs.

Climate change

This past October, The IPCC released its dire warning that we have just over 11 years to curb GHG emissions before the earth's climate tips past a point of no return. Industry creep is such that government is willing to risk other billion-dollar industries as well as the global climate for this fundamentally undemocratic and unsustainable industry. Continued expansion of the extractive and fossil fuel industries is not what we need moving forward.

What we do need is a just transition to a sustainable economy. In addition to keep-it-in-the-ground efforts to curtail fossil fuel expansion, we also need to knit all the climate solutions we know into a more compelling and tangible vision. We need to call more loudly than ever for funding for renewables, energy efficiency, health, education, ecological agriculture, and other low carbon sectors. We need to call for worker retraining, [cleanup of abandoned oil projects](#), making our cities walkable, bikeable & transit-friendly, and upholding Indigenous rights. We need to call for a [Green New Deal](#) as the progressive wing of the U.S. Democrats, amongst many others, are calling for these days.

The call for a public inquiry

We join the Campaign to Protect Offshore Nova Scotia and other allies in the Offshore Alliance to demand a full, independent [public inquiry](#). This would require a temporary moratorium on offshore activity but given there is little activity beyond the shut-down of the natural gas projects, the timing seems perfect.

Sincerely,



Angela Giles

Atlantic regional organizer | The Council of Canadians

Organizing on unceded and unsurrendered ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq Nation