

Minister of Energy
and Natural Resources



Ministre de l'Énergie et
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

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The Honourable Julie Dabrusin, P.C., M.P.
Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature
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Dear Colleague:

I am writing to convey my support for the Regional Assessment of Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling in the Canada–Nova Scotia Offshore Area and to endorse the path forward as described in the Terms of Reference. As the federal Minister responsible for the joint management of the offshore Accord Areas, I reiterate my commitment to advancing the Regional Assessment as our government works to clear the path for projects to move forward and to attract the level of investment needed to develop energy and natural resource projects across the country.

My officials will continue to work closely with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, as the lead for the Regional Assessment, as well as the Nova Scotia Department of Energy and the Canada–Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator, toward the timely completion of the Regional Assessment. Now more than ever, it is imperative that our governments focus our collaborative efforts to ensure that the province's oil and gas sector is competitive on the global stage.

The Regional Assessment is an important step toward establishing a robust regulatory process for new exploration drilling projects offshore Nova Scotia. It will build on project-specific and regional assessments in the Atlantic offshore areas, as well as years of effective oversight of exploration drilling projects in the region. It will ensure that the highest environmental protections are upheld and that offshore regulators remain well equipped in the areas of enforcement and compliance. Finally, it will be informed and strengthened through meaningful consultation and engagement with Indigenous groups, fishers and other ocean users, the public, and stakeholder groups.

Canada

Good projects will only be built in this country if we seek out all opportunities to create the conditions necessary for industry to invest in our energy and natural resources. To do so, we must provide industry with regulatory and review processes that are clear, predictable, transparent, and timely. I commend the Agency for its efforts in support of these objectives and look forward to seeing the final product in the fall.

Yours sincerely,

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The Honourable Tim Hodgson, P.C., M.P.