



JAN 31 2014

Mr. Kishore Rao
Director
World Heritage Centre
UNESCO
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France

**Subject: State of Conservation, Gros Morne National Park
Decision 37 COM 7B.18**

Dear Mr. Rao:

In response to the World Heritage Committee decision 37 COM 7B.18 with respect to Gros Morne National Park, please find attached a report on the state of conservation of Gros Morne. I would also like to confirm that this report can be made available to the public through the State of Conservation Information System, as requested by the World Heritage Centre.

I trust you will find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

George Green
Vice President
Heritage Conservation and Commemoration Directorate
and
Head of Canadian Delegation to the World Heritage Committee

Attach.

cc H.E. Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Canada to
UNESCO
Nicholas Dimic, Deputy Permanent Delegate of Canada to UNESCO
Secretary-General, Canadian Commission for UNESCO
Vincent Garneau, Policy Advisor, Democracy, Commonwealth and Francophonie
Division, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada
Carol Sheedy, Vice-President, Operations, Eastern Canada
Geoff Hancock, Field Unit Superintendent, Western Newfoundland & Labrador Field
Unit, Parks Canada

Gros Morne National Park

This report is an update on the report provided on April 8, 2013 and is a response to the decision 37 COM 7B.18 adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session, June 2013. This decision required, in part, an updated report on the proposed oil and gas exploration near Gros Morne National Park by February 1, 2014.

1. Response from Canada to the World Heritage Committee's decision 37 COM 7B.18

Parks Canada has provided input to the Strategic Environmental Assessment process being led by the joint federal-provincial Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) with regard to potential offshore oil and gas exploration activity along the west coast of Newfoundland, near Gros Morne National Park. The C-NLOPB is currently updating its Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), conducted every 5 years. This SEA is for the Western Newfoundland Offshore Area that is adjacent to Gros Morne National Park. Parks Canada has provided input that considers environmental and socio-economic factors in regard to potential impacts on ecological health and visitor experience, as well as the Outstanding Universal Value of Gros Morne as a World Heritage Site.

On November 4, 2013, the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador announced that they will not be accepting applications for onshore and offshore petroleum exploration using hydraulic fracturing before a full review of the process is completed and guidelines are in place. Correspondence from the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador about this decision is attached. Should an application be registered with the province in the future, Parks Canada will participate in an environmental assessment process as it relates to Gros Morne National Park.

On December 5, 2013, the C-NLOPB rejected the Shoal Point Energy Company's application to extend part of Exploration Licence 1097R (EL 1097R) until January 15, 2015. This licence is for an area adjacent to Gros Morne National Park. As a result, the Company will lose the licence on January 15, 2014 and will not be able to proceed with drilling any test wells.

Given the decisions described above, there is no possibility of drilling and hydraulic fracturing in the foreseeable future and therefore no need for the joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission to Gros Morne National Park at this time.

2. Other current conservation issues identified by Canada

Nothing to report.

3. Potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction within the protected area and its buffer zone and/or corridors

Nothing to report.

DEC 10 2013

Mr. Alan Latourelle
CEO
Parks Canada
25 Eddy Street, 7th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0M5

Dear Sir:

Re: Hydraulic Fracturing in Newfoundland & Labrador

In response to your request for a summary of the November 4, 2013, announcement of hydraulic fracturing in the Province, please find attached a copy of the Ministerial Statement.

Thank you for your interest in this issue.

Sincerely,



DERRICK DALLEY, MHA
The Isles of Notre Dame
Minister

Attachment

Natural Resources
November 4, 2013

 SHARE    ...

The following statement was given today in the House of Assembly by the Honourable Derrick Dalley, Minister of Natural Resources:

Minister Provides Position on Hydraulic Fracturing

Mr. Speaker, I rise in this Honourable House today to reiterate our government's vision for economic development, balanced with environmental protection. There has been much discussion surrounding hydraulic fracturing in recent months. I can assure Newfoundlanders and Labradorians that our government's first and main consideration when exploring an economic development opportunity is the health and safety of our people and protection of the environment. These principles guide our decisions and remain our highest priorities.

Today, I am announcing that our government will not be accepting applications for onshore and onshore to offshore petroleum exploration using hydraulic fracturing. This measure provides an opportunity for government to undertake a balanced review of regulations, rules and guidelines in other jurisdictions; to complete the technical work necessary to fully assess the geological impact in Western Newfoundland; and, following this process, to undertake public engagement to ensure that our residents have an opportunity to comment and are fully informed before any decision is made.

Mr. Speaker, oil and gas exploration and development has played a significant role in the economic growth of this province, transforming the economy and prospects for Newfoundland and Labrador.

Petroleum drilling and production activities throughout our province have proceeded in accordance with stringent regulations and rules. Our sound approach to petroleum industry regulation and environmental protection is guiding the step we are taking today.

Our first consideration is the health and safety of our people. In making this decision, our government is acting responsibly and respecting the balance between economic development and environmental protection.

Thank you.

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1:45 p.m.

Last Updated: November 4, 2013

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