

1. Definitions

In these Terms of Reference,

"Accord Acts" means the *Canada-Newfoundland Atlantic Accord Implementation Act* and the *Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Atlantic Accord Implementation Newfoundland and Labrador Act*;

"Board" means The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board;

"CEA Act" means the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*;

"Independent Reviewer" means the individual appointed pursuant to para. 44(2)(b) of the Accord Acts;

"Development Plan Guidelines" means the *Development Plan Guidelines*, dated February 2006, as published by the Board and available at the Board's website (www.cnlopb.nl.ca) under "Legislation and Guidance"; "development plan" has the meaning set out in section 2 of the Accord Acts;

"Environmental Assessment Documents" means the documents that are submitted by the Proponent to the Board in response to the Scoping Document and in compliance with the CEA Act;

"Environmental Effect" has the same meaning as defined in paragraph 2(1) of the CEA Act;

"Participant" means a person other than the Proponent, who makes an oral presentation or files a written submission to the Independent Reviewer pursuant to the Procedures for Public Review;

"Procedures for Public Review" means the procedures as may be implemented by the Independent Reviewer;

"Project" means the proposed drilling of a single exploration well on the Proponent's exploration licence EL 1105 in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, as described on the Board's website at <http://www.cnlopb.nl.ca/environment/corridorresinc.shtml> under "Project Description (English)" and "Project Description (French)";

"Proponent" means Corridor Resources Inc.;

"Scoping Document" means the document, dated August 17, 2011 and entitled *Corridor Resources Inc. Exploratory Drilling Program on the Old Harry Prospect, Exploration Licence 1105: Scoping Document* and published on the Board's Web site at <http://www.cnlopb.nl.ca/environment/corridorresinc.shtml> under "Scoping Document";

"Secretariat" means the Independent Reviewer's support staff obtained pursuant to Paragraph 13.

2. General

Subject to the requirements of these Terms of Reference and the Accord Acts, the Independent Reviewer will facilitate the submission of comments from the general public on the Environmental Assessment Documents that are relevant to the adequacy and sufficiency of those documents in consideration of the Scoping Document and of the requirements of the CEA Act.

3. Scope of the Review

The Independent Reviewer shall include in his review a consideration of comments from the public relating to potential Environmental Effects of the Project, in consideration of the Scoping Document.

4. Limitation

The Independent Reviewer's mandate shall not include an examination of questions of energy policy, jurisdiction, industrial benefits, the fiscal or royalty regime of governments, the division of revenues between the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, or generally matters which go beyond those described in the Scoping Document or as are required pursuant to the CEA Act.

5. Public Participation

The Independent Reviewer shall conduct the public review sessions in a manner which shall promote and facilitate public participation.

6. Conduct of the Review

The Procedures for Public Review implemented by the Independent Reviewer will be generally consistent with those of a Public Review Body as described in Appendix B of Chapter 7 of the Development Plan Guidelines, except as otherwise described in these Terms of Reference.

7. Consultation by Independent Reviewer with Board

The Independent Reviewer, the Secretariat, or both may consult the Board for the purposes of clarifying any matters respecting these Terms of Reference or the environmental assessment process. In no event shall the Independent Reviewer or Secretariat consult the Board for the purposes of discussing any substantive matters or merits respecting the Environmental Assessment Documents or the Project.

8. Referral of Documentation

Following the Board's determination that the Environmental Assessment Documents are sufficiently complete for public review, the Board shall refer the documents to the Independent

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Reviewer for public review. As soon as practicable thereafter, the Independent Reviewer shall issue a general notice to the public containing or attaching the following information:

- a. The approximate dates during which the public sessions are expected to take place. (At least 60 days notice will be provided between the date of such notice and the commencement of public sessions);
- b. The Terms of Reference and the Procedures for Public Review; and
- c. Relevant information respecting how interested parties may obtain a copy of the Environmental Assessment Documents or further information.

9. Request for Additional Information

The following guidance is provided respecting any requirement to obtain information additional to the Environmental Assessment Documents filed under paragraph 8 above:

- a. Following the referral of the Environmental Assessment Documents to the Independent Reviewer, the Independent Reviewer may request any further information from the Proponent which the Independent Reviewer considers necessary for the conduct of the public review, including but not limited to:
 - i. information relevant to the Project;
 - ii. existing technical, environmental or other information relevant to the review;
 - iii. supplementary information including a description of any Proponent-initiated public consultation program, its nature and scope, issues identified, commitments made and outstanding issues; and
 - iv. any proposed work plans, terms of reference or guidelines relating to the Proponent's preparation of its Environmental Assessment Documents;

Such additional information gathered for the above purposes will be referred to as "Supplementary Information";

- b. The Independent Reviewer shall ensure that subject to any disclosure restrictions under law, the information provided under the Environmental Assessment Documents and the Supplementary Information is made available for public examination;
- c. Following the general notice of public sessions referred to in paragraph 8, but prior to announcing a detailed schedule for public sessions under paragraph 11, the Independent Reviewer will request public comment to determine whether additional information should be provided before convening the public sessions. The time period for receipt of comments shall not exceed thirty (30) days. In consideration of any comments which are received, the Independent Reviewer may request additional information from the Proponent having particular regard for its relevance, material value and reasonableness. Any request for additional information shall be issued no later than fifteen (15) days following the expiry of the thirty (30) day period for comment referred to above;

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- d. Once the notice for public review sessions have been given and any Participant makes or files a submission pursuant to the Procedures for Public Review, the Independent Reviewer may also request any additional information from any Participant, which in the Independent Reviewer's opinion is relevant.

10. Location of Sessions

The Independent Reviewer will hold the sessions in locations in and around the Gulf of St. Lawrence region as may be determined by the Independent Reviewer in consideration of public comments received on the draft Scoping Document.

11. Announcement and Completion of Sessions

The Independent Reviewer will provide notice of the detailed schedule and announce specific dates and locations of the public review sessions respecting the Project once the Independent Reviewer is satisfied with the information provided. This notice will be issued a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the start of the sessions.

12. Reporting

The Independent Reviewer will prepare and submit to the Board, having particular regard for the matters considered under the Scoping Document, a report on comments which are received from the public on the potential Environmental Effects of the Project. The report shall be submitted at the earliest possible date but in no event later than sixty (60) days following the date of the final public review session.

13. Support Staff for Independent Reviewer

The Independent Reviewer may obtain and as needed, request the services of support staff including independent specialists or professionals whose functions would be to provide information on and help interpret information and issues relevant to the public review. The names of any such persons retained by the Independent Reviewer will be made public. Specialists hired by the Independent Reviewer may be requested to appear before the Independent Reviewer. Other support services may also be obtained with respect to any logistical and administrative functions which need to be performed.

14. Powers of the Independent Reviewer

The Independent Reviewer shall be vested with the same powers conferred by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to any Commissioner appointed pursuant to the *Public Inquiries Act, 2006*.