



November 28, 2011

Producer  
CBC Here and Now

I take exception to the manner in which CBC reported on Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board's communication regarding last Thursday's collision of a supply vessel and a drilling rig in the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore area.

The process in such an instance is to establish that all personnel are safe and to what extent, if any, is there environmental harm. While communications is open and continuous between the Operator and the Board during the event, the Operator has 24 hours to provide a written summary of the incident. Reporting to the media while the safety assessment is being made is not the Board's primary concern.

Once the safety of personnel is confirmed and the on-site assessment has taken place it is then reported back to the CNLOPB. We then release accurate information to the public. Releasing information before it is confirmed causes confusion and would be irresponsible. Such an example is the CBC's assertion that the sea-state at the time of the incident was six metres. Our information from both Coast Guard and the on-site Operator is that sea-state was significantly less than six metres, yet your reporter chose to report unconfirmed and inaccurate information as fact.

The CBC report that the incident "wasn't revealed by the Board until the media got wind of it" is grossly misleading. The Board releases information once it is confirmed and accurate. We take our responsibility to report incidents very seriously and will not, unlike the CBC in this instance, report inaccurate and unconfirmed information.

In this manner, the CBC's action was an irresponsible representation of the Board's openness at best and reprehensible in its reporting of false information at worst. It is a disservice to the public and those working offshore and their families.

Sincerely,

David Wells  
Deputy CEO and Board Member  
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board