



**TGS-NOPEC Geophysical Company ASA (TGS) & Petroleum Geo-Services (PGS)  
Proposed TGS/PGS 2011 NorthEastern Canada 2D Seismic Program  
Scope of the Environmental Assessment Pursuant to the  
*Canadian Environmental Assessment Act***

10 June 2011

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 26 January 2011 the NEB sent out a Federal Coordination Regulations Notification letter pursuant to section 5 of the CEA Act Regulations Respecting the Coordination by *Federal Authorities of Environmental Assessment Procedures and Requirements* (Federal Coordination Regulations). In response, the following departments identified themselves either as a Responsible Authority (RA) likely to issue an authorization and require an EA under the CEA Act, or as a Federal Authority (FA) in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge in respect of the proposed project EA:

- National Energy Board – RA
- Transport Canada – FA
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans – FA
- Environment Canada – FA
- Natural Resources Canada – FA

Parks Canada and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association have also expressed an interest in monitoring and participating in the EA process.

This Scope of the EA was established by the National Energy Board after consulting with the FA's in accordance with the CEA Act and the Federal Coordination Regulations.

## 2.0 SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT

### 2.1 Scope of the Project

The scope of the project for the NEB as determined by the purposes of the EA includes the various components as described by TGS/PGS in their 8 January 2011 Project Description submitted to the NEB. The physical activities include seismic data acquisition, gravity data acquisition, seismic and support vessel activities, refueling, and vessel mobilization and demobilization. The proposed project is expected to commence in 2011 and continue on a seasonal basis for up to 5 years. Any works and activities associated with additional modifications of the Project would be subject to future examination under the *Canada Oil and Gas Operations Act* and consequently under the CEA Act as appropriate.



## 2.2 Factors to be considered

The EA will include a consideration of the following factors listed in paragraphs 16 (1) (a) to (d) of the CEA Act:

- a) The environmental effects of the project, including the environmental effects of malfunctions or accidents that may occur in connection with the project and any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out;
- b) The significance of the effects referred to in paragraph (a);
- c) Comments from the public that are received during the environmental assessment process; and
- d) Measures that are technically and economically feasible and that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects of the project.

For further clarity, subsection 2 (1) of the CEA Act defines 'environmental effect' as:

- a) Any change that the project may cause in the environment, including any change that the project may cause to a listed wildlife species, its critical habitat or the residence of individuals of that species as defined in the *Species at Risk Act*;
- b) Any effect of any change referred to in paragraph (a) on
  - i. Health and socio economic conditions,
  - ii. Physical and cultural heritage,
  - iii. The current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by aboriginal persons,
  - iv. Any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural significance; or
- c) Any change to the project that may be caused by the environment, whether any such change or effect occurs within or outside Canada.

## 2.3 Scope of the Factors to be considered

The EA will consider the potential effects of the proposed Project within spatial and temporal boundaries within which the Project may potentially interact with, and have an effect on components of the environment. These boundaries will vary with the issues and factors considered, and will include but not be limited to:

- Physical activities proposed by the proponent including mitigation measures and contingency plans;
- Seasonal or other natural variations of a population or ecological component;
- Any sensitive life cycle phases of wildlife species in relation to the timing of project activities;
- The time required for an ecological component to recover from an effect and return to a pre-effect condition, including the estimated degree of recovery;
- The area within which a population or ecological component functions; and
- The area affected by the Project.

For the purpose of the assessment of the cumulative environmental effects, the consideration of other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out will be limited to those for which formal plans or applications have been made.