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Beaufort Regional Environmental Assessment

Climate Change Working Group: Activities and Outcomes

February 2013

BREA Work Plans – Why Climate Change?

- Important issue to the Inuvialuit, government and industry
- Has implications for everything we do, particularly in the North
- Issue identified in BSStRPA and carried over to BREA
- Likely to be a topic of interest to many parties in any review of proposed oil and gas exploration or development activity

BREA Climate Change Working Group

- Working Group includes federal departments and agencies, territorial governments, Inuvialuit and industry
- **Purpose**
 - To identify, and recommend actions to fill, information and data gaps related to climate change of relevance to offshore oil and gas activities in the Beaufort Sea.
 - To support efficient and effective environmental assessment and regulatory decision-making, particularly as related to relevant aspects of climate change and adaptation.

BREA Climate Change Working Group Objectives

- To build consensus around important aspects and issues of climate change and adaptation in the Beaufort Sea as related to oil and gas exploration and development activities.
- To review and summarize scientific and technical literature and traditional / local knowledge regarding climate change specific to the Beaufort Sea region.
- To identify information and data gaps related to climate change of relevance to offshore oil and gas activities in the Beaufort Sea.
- To bring together a group of experts in climate change and related science, and establish, or build upon existing, collaborative working relationships.
- To identify requirements for monitoring, modelling, research or other actions and make recommendations to the BREA Research Advisory Committee and Steering Committee to address these requirements.
- To conduct and/or support appropriate data collection, monitoring, modelling, research, etc.
- To make all relevant climate change and adaptation related data / information available to decision-makers for consideration in the environmental assessment and regulatory processes for Beaufort Sea oil and gas exploration and development activities.

BREA Climate Change Working Group Activities and Outcomes

- Funded contract to produce “*Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Activity Forecast - Canadian Beaufort Sea 2012-2027*”
- Funded contract to:
 1. Produce climate change state of knowledge summary report for the Beaufort Sea region
 2. Provide an initial assessment of potential climate change impacts on oil and gas activities in the Beaufort Sea using the development activity forecast
 - *2 drafts of report and assessment reviewed, final draft accepted November 2012*
 3. Organize and facilitate climate change Workshop
 - *Workshop held in Inuvik November 19-21*
 4. Produce a final report summarizing all of above including recommendations to decision-makers
 - *Final report received January 2013*

BREA Climate Change Report: What it is ... and What it isn't

- BREA report is a summary of climate change information / knowledge in the region and a high level (not project-specific) assessment of potential impacts of climate change to future oil and gas activities
- Does not provide detailed information on areas / topics being covered by the ArcticNet IRIS 1 program / report, including potential climate change impacts on:
 - terrestrial and freshwater systems
 - marine and estuarine ecosystems
 - human health
 - safety in navigation and transportation
 - infrastructure
 - food and cultural security
 - contaminants in fish, wildlife and people
 - other aspects of resource development including mining, shipping and commercial fisheries
- May want to assess the two reports together following their completion to identify any remaining gaps or requirements for further work

BREA Climate Change Working Group: Have we met our objectives?

- To build consensus around important aspects and issues of climate change and adaptation in the Beaufort Sea as related to oil and gas exploration and development activities.
 - *Reasonable consensus achieved on the contents of the report and assessment as expressed in reviews of the report and discussions at the Workshop*
- To review and summarize scientific and technical literature and traditional / local knowledge regarding climate change specific to the Beaufort Sea region.
 - *Report reflects a thorough examination and summarization of the relevant literature and the available traditional knowledge*
- To identify information and data gaps related to climate change of relevance to offshore oil and gas activities in the Beaufort Sea.
 - *Report identifies a number of gaps and provides recommendations to decision-makers to address those gaps*
- To bring together a group of experts in climate change and related science, and establish, or build upon existing, collaborative working relationships.
 - *Working Group includes climate science and climate change experts from a number of federal departments, territorial governments and Inuvialuit organizations*
 - *Workshop included representatives from government, industry, IGC, IRC and Inuvialuit communities*

BREA Climate Change Working Group: Have we met our objectives?

- To identify requirements for monitoring, modelling, research or other actions and make recommendations to the BREA Research Advisory Committee and Steering Committee to address these requirements.
 - *List of recommendations included in the report*
- To conduct and/or support appropriate data collection, monitoring, modelling, research, etc.
 - *Not likely to be achieved by the Working Group per se but some climate related research has already been supported by BREA and recommendations in the report may be addressed in the future via ESRF or other means*
- To make all relevant climate change and adaptation related data / information available to decision-makers for consideration in the environmental assessment and regulatory processes for Beaufort Sea oil and gas exploration and development activities.
 - *Report and assessment is available to government, industry, Inuvialuit and decision-makers in environmental assessment and regulatory processes (e.g. EISC, EIRB, NEB)*

Thank You

Questions?



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