



Mittimatalik Hunters & Trappers Organization
P. O. Box 189, Pond Inlet, Nunavut XOA OSO
Tel: (867) 899-8856
Fax: (867) 899-8095
E-mail: htopond@qiniq.com

May 7, 2013

Translation of letter from MHTO

National Energy Board
444 Seventh Ave. SW
Calgary, AB
T2P 0X8

Re: Proposed Seismic Testing in Baffin Bay

We are grateful that the final hearing was held in Pond Inlet. And for giving hunters an opportunity to express their concerns and the concerns they have on the mammals in Baffin Bay.

The Mittimatalik HTO Board of Directors met on May 2, 2013 regarding the proposed Seismic testing around Baffin Bay, and stated some concerns as follows;

-Baffin Bay is the very route for migration for mammals such as seals, bearded seals, walrus', narwhals, belugas, bowhead whales, and killer whales.

-Invertebrates as well as cod fish, arctic char, turbot, amphipods, and crustaceans would be killed by seismic testing.

-There are many Pond Inlet residents who hunt mammals for a living and are dependant on them and a vital food source for our people. If the mammals are affected, the people will also be affected too.

-The movements of the ice from west to south are inhabited by mammals, they may be affected.

-In the past years from 1970's to 1980's, when the oil companies did research and surveys such as seismic testing, Inuit noticed some changes on animals as well as fish habitats. We feel that this should not happen again.

-If seismic testing should go ahead, there are no plans in place for any compensation from disasters.

-Whenever there is an oil spill in the ocean, the mammals and birds are usually impacted. We hear about animals dying and only hear about the clean-up, we never hear anything about mammals being replaced. We do not want to see this in the Arctic.

These concerns were approved by the Board during their meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Matthias Qaunaq
Chair
MHTO
Pond Inlet, NU

c.c.
Tununiq MLA
Mayor Jaykolasie Killiktee
QIA Representative Enookie Inuarak
Minister of Environment – Hon. James Arreak
MP Leona Aglukkaq