Update: Hibernia confirms discharge volume

Date: August 18, 2019 (Newfoundland time)

St. Johns, Newfoundland: Hibernia Management and Development Company Ltd. (HMDC) is continuing response efforts regarding a release of oil and water from the Hibernia platform’s drains system on August 17.

A surveillance flight was carried out by PAL Airlines this morning, with an independent regulatory observer, and based on their observations of the sheen, the estimate of hydrocarbon released has been updated to 2,200 liters. The volume shared earlier was based on a visual observation from the elevation of the platform, as opposed to aerial surveillance. Another surveillance flight will take place this afternoon and HMDC will share an update based on their observations.

The platform experienced a temporary loss of power on Saturday evening, which resulted in the unavailability of the compressed air system. When there is a drop in pressure, the deluge system, which is designed to extinguish a fire, released water that collected in the platform’s drains. The drains overflowed onto the gravity base structure releasing water and oil to the ocean.

Power has been restored. Production remains shut down. Oil spill response has been activated, and a number of vessels and aircraft are responding.

Wildlife observers are engaged and additional resources are being deployed.

The Canadian Coast Guard and the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board have been notified.

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