

Government of Greenland  
Imaneq 4, P.O. Box 1015  
3900 Nuuk  
Greenland  
Attention: Prime Minister Kuupik Kleist

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Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you today to express our serious concerns over the lack of transparency regarding Cairn's Arctic deepwater drilling operations in west Greenland. In particular we are dismayed that Cairn's oil spill response plan has not been made public.

According to the Arctic Council Oil and Gas Guidelines, which were adopted and endorsed by the Ministers of the Arctic States, an oil spill response plan should meet a number of detailed requirements, and "*Operators should allow the opportunity for public review and comment of the Plan*".<sup>1</sup>

We understand that this has not yet happened in the case of Cairn Energy's drilling operations this summer. We therefore respectfully request that you ensure that this plan is released and made available for public comment and scrutiny. We are concerned that secrecy and non-compliance with circumpolar agreements on such a vital issue will create a dangerous precedent. Drilling should not commence until the oil spill response plan is disclosed and the public is given an opportunity to provide comments.

To be clear, the information that has been made public through Cairn's Environmental Impact Assessments<sup>2</sup> gives us serious cause for concern. For instance, Cairn has not modeled a spill in ice-bound conditions, looking instead at the impact of a relatively limited leak spilling a small amount of oil during the Arctic summer, when the sea is ice-free. Yet even this modeling shows that spilled oil could reach the boundaries of Arctic sea ice and significantly impact local wildlife. Cairn has even described how a blow-out would have "major negative consequences" for the environment and economy of Greenland, and how fisheries, in particular, would be severely hit. A spill could also seriously impact the Canadian side of Baffin Bay.

Currently Greenland only has the capacity to deal with minor oil spills. For larger oil spills, equipment would need to be shipped in from overseas, which could take weeks. Because response and purification techniques are only effective in the Arctic before oil begins to spread, the first phase of an oil spill clean-up is crucial.

Given these grave concerns, we strongly believe that Cairn's plans for dealing with any potential disaster should be made public, in accordance with Arctic Council Guidelines and normal industry practice, so that those that would be impacted by a spill are able to make up their own mind as to whether their plans are adequate.

Yours sincerely,

Greenpeace  
The Cascade Climate Network  
GCAP-SA

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<sup>1</sup>THE ARCTIC COUNCIL, ARCTIC OIL AND GAS GUIDELINES 45 (2009), available at <http://arctic-council.org/filearchive/Arctic%20Offshore%20Oil%20and%20Gas%20Guidelines%202009.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>NAOQ, **Offentlig høring af ansøgning om efterforskningsboring i havet vest for Grønland (VVM og VSB)** <http://dk.nanog.gl/Service/Hoeringsportal/Milj%C3%B8vurderinger/2011/Olieefterforskningsboringer%202011.aspx> (last visited 8 June 2011).

Alexey Yablokov, Former advisor for environmental issues of Russian President, Member of Russian Academy of Science  
Alexey Zimenko, Biodiversity Conservation Center  
Andrea Harden, The Council of Canadians  
Anna Collins, Casper ter Kuile, Emma Biermann, Cameron Fenton, Tasha, Global youth lists, UKYCC, Canadian YCC  
Anne van Schaik, GCCA  
Askhat Kayumov, Environmental Center "Dront"  
Asunción Ruiz Guijosa, Executive Director, SEO/BirdLife  
Avraham Gertzman, Chief Editor of Green channel, NRG news website  
Avi Dabush, Program Director, SHATIL  
Princess (Mrs.) Caroline Usikpedo Omoniye, MCIA, B.Sc., National President, NDWPD, African Representative GCAP - Feminist Task Force (Nigeria) African Coordinator Ways Women Lead, Member, Delta State Committee on CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women)"  
Chris Carroll, Seas at risk  
Clare Perry, EIA environmental Investigations Agency  
Clair Bass, WSPA world society for the protection of animals  
David Bonbright, Chief Executive, Keystone Accountability  
Dixie Dansercoer, Polar Expedition leader & Polar activist  
Elena Kim, All Russian Botanic Society  
Elena Kruglikova, Kola Environmental Center  
Éric Hébert-Daly, National Executive Director - Directeur general, National Canadian Parks and wilderness Society  
Ian Davidson, Executive Director/ Director general, Nature Canada  
Ingrid Srinath, Secretary General, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation  
Irina Reznikova, For Life Movement  
Jessica Magonet, Executive Committee Chair, Sierra Youth Coalition  
"José Manuel Vílchez Vílchez, Director, AISol Tecnologías Solares S.L.  
Kristian Rinkevich, Transborder Environmental Information Agency  
Kristof Calvo, Member of Belgian Parliament, Region of Flanders  
Leo Christian V. Lauzon, President, Animal Concerns and Awareness Club  
Luis González Reyes, Corrdinador Nacional, Ecologistas en Acción  
Martine Laplante, Président, Friends of the earth France  
Martin Sime, Chief Executive, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organizations  
May Boeve, Bill McKibben 350.org  
Michail Koten, Scientific-and-technical association «Ecology imperative»  
Mikhail Piskunov, Center for Assistance to Citizen Initiatives (CSGI)  
M. Shishin, Foundation "Altay-21-Century"  
Nina Lishina, Bellona-Murmansk  
Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, chairperson, Rozaria Memorial Trust  
Peter Robinson, The David Suzuki Foundation  
Ricard Riol Jurado, President, Associació para la Promoció del Transport Public  
Sergey Mukhachev, Tatarstan Branch of Social Ecological Union  
Sergey Shaphaev, Buryat Regional Union For Baikal  
Sergey Simak, Co-chair, International Socio Ecological Union  
Sutyagin Alexander, Project "Monitoring BPS"  
Tara Connolly, VOICE (Voice of Irish Concern For The Environment)  
Thérèse Snoy, Member of Belgian Parliament, Region of Wallonia  
Valentina Semyashkina, To Rescue The Pechora Committee  
Vitaly Gorohov, Institute of Environmental Legislation Problems "Ecoyuris"  
V. Sobolev, Union for Consumers rights  
V. Zubakin, Russian Bird Conservation Union  
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