

Supporting Statement

Project Background

The Alma Platform is a small unmanned gas platform that will be located in the Sable gas field offshore Nova Scotia Canada. The telecommunications systems on the platform include, UHF radio system including a repeater, VHF Marine radio, VHF Aeronautical radio.

The platform is being constructed in the Gulf Island Fabrication located in Houma Louisiana. As part of the final stages of construction, the various systems are tested with power and a series of checks are conducted to ensure that the systems were constructed properly according to the original specifications. These tests are conducted onshore to insure that the communications link will be fully functional when the offshore commissioning begins.

Overview of System Testing

The systems will be powered up for testing over several weeks. During these tests the systems will be tested for complete functionality. This includes startup, regular operation, shutdown, and failsafe testing. Most of these tests will be of duration of 1-2 hours at a time.

A full license is obviously not required for several reasons.

Firstly the platform will only be located in Louisiana until approximately the end of July. After that it will be permanently located in Canadian Waters. Secondly, the testing will only be of very short duration.