Assessing public opinion of BP drilling for oil offshore Nova Scotia reveals residents are more likely to oppose than support the company pursuing such a project.

The vast majority of Nova Scotians believe a capping stack should be available within 24 hours’ transport of the project despite the indication that the location of the capping stack for the BP offshore oil drilling project would not affect the sequence or duration of well intervention operations in the event of a blowout.

### Method

- **Probability telephone survey**

### Data Collection Dates

- August 16 to September 1, 2018

### Sampling

- Random sample of 400 adults aged 18+ years from Nova Scotia

### Margin of Error

- Overall results are accurate to within ± 4.9 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Margins of error for sub-samples will vary by size and are available upon request.
Residents are slightly more likely to oppose than support BP drilling for oil offshore Nova Scotia.

Taking into account BP’s association with the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, and the federal government’s assessment that the project is unlikely to cause negative environmental effects, just over one-half of residents oppose BP drilling for oil offshore Nova Scotia. Meanwhile, just over four in ten Nova Scotians express support in this regard.

Opinion on BP drilling offshore Nova Scotia is generally consistent across the province. Meanwhile, support in this regard is elevated among men and those with higher household incomes. (Table CC2)
There is widespread belief that BP should be required to have a capping stack available within 24 hours’ transport of offshore Nova Scotia.

Despite the indication that the location of the capping stack for the BP offshore oil drilling project would not affect the sequence or duration of well intervention operations in the unlikely event of a blowout, nine in ten Nova Scotians believe a capping stack should be available within 24 hours’ transport of the project’s location.

Across the province and population, the vast majority of residents believe the capping stack should be available within 24 hours’ transport of offshore Nova Scotia. (Table CC3)

Q, CC3: In the unlikely event of a blowout, capping stacks are used to temporarily seal ruptured deepwater oil wells. If a blowout occurred offshore Nova Scotia, BP would mobilize a capping stack located in Norway, taking 12 or more days to arrive. Some countries require a capping stack within 24 hours’ transport of offshore drilling sites, but BP has stated the location of the capping stack would not significantly affect the sequence or duration of well intervention operations. Do you think BP should or should not be required to have a capping stack available within 24 hours’ transport of offshore Nova Scotia? (n=400)