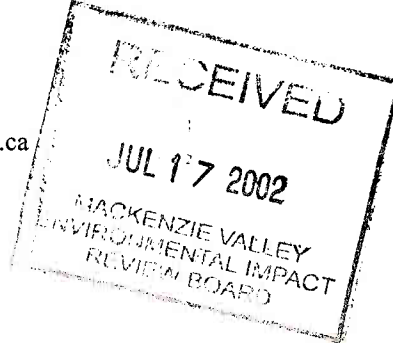




SAHTU RENEWABLE RESOURCES BOARD

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July 12, 2002

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 938, 5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Re: Western Geco Mackenzie River 2D Seismic Program

The Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB) disagrees with the proposed Mackenzie River 2D Seismic Program, as it currently exists. We agree with the Department of Fisheries & Oceans and other regulatory agencies that there are many unanswered questions related to this program. We feel that trying to extrapolate a marine seismic program (open, homogeneous environment) into a river seismic program (closed, heterogeneous environment) is not viable.

The Board also feels that the consultation meetings held in the Sahtu communities (Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells & Tulita) were inadequate. Meetings with local Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs), as well as the SRRB, should have been conducted as these organizations are mandated to manage, protect and conserve all fish and wildlife in the Sahtu Settlement Area.

The Board does agree that in order to satisfactorily answer all relevant questions, the proposed Acoustic and Biological Test Study should be conducted. The SRRB, as well as the Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells & Tulita RRCs, have given support to the Aurora Research Institute licence application with the following recommendations: 1) local, trained environmental monitors from the Sahtu are employed, 2) fish camps and/or fish nets are avoided, 3) communities are informed at least one week prior to and after testing so any traditional knowledge may be collected and data gathered may be distributed, and 4) reactions of aquatic mammals, as well as waterfowl, are recorded. Upon completion of the test study, a revised 2D Seismic Program should be resubmitted to all interested parties for examination.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to review Western Geco's application.

Sincerely,

Jody Snortland
Executive Director

Cc Paul Latour, Interim Chair, SRRB
SRRB Board Members & Alternates
Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells & Tulita RRCs