

Indian and Northern  
Affairs Canada      Affaires indiennes  
et du Nord CanadaFACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL  
TRANSMISSION PAR TÉLÉCOPIEURNumber of pages including this page  
Nombre de pages incluant cette page

Date

## FROM - DE

|                                                              |                                                     |                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name - Nom<br><i>A. J. Blais</i>                             |                                                     | Position title - Titre du poste                                 |
| Directorate - Direction<br>Renewable Resources & Environment |                                                     | Branch - Direction générale<br>Environment & Conservation       |
| Room - Pièce                                                 | Facsimile no. - N° de télécopieur<br>(867) 669-2701 | Telephone no. - N° de téléphone<br>(867) 669-2580 - <i>2591</i> |

## TO - À

|                                                      |                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Name - Nom<br><i>Alan Ehrlich</i>                    |                                 |
| Facsimile no. - No de télécopieur<br><i>766-7074</i> | Telephone no. - N° de téléphone |

Indian and Northern  
Affairs CanadaAffaires indiennes  
et du Nord Canada

Environment & Conservation  
P.O. Box 1500  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3

January 9, 2003

Mr. Alan Ehrlich  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
P.O. Box 938  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Your file: Value reference

Our file: Notre référence

YEL-N 7392-7-A2-15

**Re: Western Geco Draft Terms of Reference**

Dear Mr. Ehrlich,

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) has reviewed the draft terms of reference and provides the following comments.

Spill contingency plans should be provided as part of the environmental assessment documentation. The developer should also provide a full accounting of its fuel handling and waste disposal procedures.

In Section 3: Scope of the Assessment, details regarding the decommissioning of the operation should be included (e.g. barges taken back to Hay River, etc.).

Under section 4.7, the developer should also provide the dates and participants of each consultation meeting.

It is not clear why the Benefits Plan along with the schedule for its completion is being requested in the draft terms of reference. The benefits plan is not a contractual document and is not intended to require that mitigation and follow-up monitoring be implemented. It is more appropriate to focus on the actual Geological Operation Authorization that may be granted by the National Energy Board should the proposal be allowed to proceed. It is our understanding that it is this legal instrument that can dictate mitigation measures and follow-up requirements.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (867) 669-2591.

Sincerely,

Elaine Blais  
Environmental Scientist  
Environment & Conservation

**Canada**

Printed on recycled paper - Imprimé sur papier recyclé