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BoardOffice national
de l'énergie

OUTGOING FACSIMILE - MESSAGE À EXPÉDIER

OPERATIONS BUSINESS UNIT - SECTEUR DES OPÉRATIONS
Exploration & Production - Exploration et production

MESSAGE TO	CONTACT / AFFILIATION	FAX
Mr. Vern Christensen	MVEIRB	867-920-4761
Distribution List	See Attachment	

MESSAGE FROM:	Laura Van Ham	Environmental Specialist
PHONE:	(403) 299-2769	FAX: (403) 292-5876
DATE:	2 May 2002	# of Pages including this cover page 6

REMARKS/COMMENTAIRES:

Subject/Sujet:	WesternGeco Mackenzie River 2D Seismic Program 2002
<p>Please see following letter and attachment.</p> <p>Sincerely, Laura Van Ham, M.E.Des. Environmental Specialist</p>	

444 Seventh Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0X8444, Septième Avenue S.-O.
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National Energy
BoardOffice national
de l'énergieFile 9180-W730-2
2 May 2002

Mr. Vern Christensen
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre, 5120-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
X1A 2N7
Facsimile (867) 920-4761

and

Distribution List
Attached

**WesternGeco Application Pursuant to 5(1)(b) of the *Canada Oil and Gas Operations Act* for
Authorization to Conduct the Mackenzie River 2D Seismic Program 2002
Preliminary Screening Notification and Request for Review and Comment**

The National Energy Board (NEB) received a WesternGeco application on 23 April 2002 for an authorization pursuant to paragraph 5(1)(b) of the *Canada Oil and Gas Operations Act (COGOA)* to conduct a 2D, 1,800 linear km river seismic acquisition program (the Program). The Program is proposed for the Mackenzie River from south of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region / Gwich'in Settlement Area border to Fort Simpson and for the Liard River from its confluence with the Mackenzie River to the Northwest Territories / British Columbia border. The Program is planned for June to August of 2002. The attached map is an index of Program location maps prepared for the Environmental Impact Assessment submitted by WesternGeco in support of its application. Please review the following and provide your comments to Terry Baker, Chief Conservation Officer, NEB by 23 May 2002. Should you require a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment report, please contact WesternGeco directly (Bob White at Tel: 867-678-2555 or Marty Swager at Tel: 403-509-4440).

Notification

The NEB has initiated a preliminary screening of the proposed development pursuant to section 124 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)* and Schedule 1, Part 1 of the *MVRMA Preliminary Screening Requirements Regulations*. A Geophysical Operation Authorization would be required to carry out the Project. No other approvals or authorizations have been identified for this Program to date.

Scope of the Proposed Development for Preliminary Screening

The NEB considers the principal undertaking to be the proposed geophysical operations related to seismic data acquisition on the Mackenzie River.

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WesternGeco Mackenzie River 2D Seismic Program 2002
Preliminary Screening Notification – Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act

2 May 2002

The NEB notes that for the Program to proceed to completion, the following activities would need to be undertaken:

- river (ship-based) seismic program with operations on land limited to existing docking facilities;
- use of a recorder/source vessel (pushing a barge and towing an airgun array and a streamer cable from the stern) and a second source vessel (pushing a barge and towing an airgun array from the stern) located approximately 1 to 2 km ahead of the recorder/source vessel during operations;
- use of scout boats ahead and behind the source/recorder and source vessels;
- use of two 1,500 in³ airgun (sleevegun) arrays as follows,
 - one array would be towed behind the recorder/source vessel and one behind the second source vessel;
 - each array is composed of two 750 in³ subarrays that operate at an air pressure of 2,000 PSI;
 - each subarray is comprised of two, two-gun clusters and four single guns (6 guns per subarray);
 - the two subarrays would be mounted with a 12 m separation between them;
 - the airgun arrays would be towed approximately 2.5 m below the water surface, depending on water depth;
- firing of the airgun arrays at distance intervals of 15 to 25 m alternating from the recorder/source vessel to the second source vessel, or approximately every 9 seconds while in operation;
- towing of one solid (foam filled) streamer approximately 100 m behind the recorder/source vessel and at a depth of approximately 2.5 m to record seismic data; streamer would be 600 m to 2 km in length; hydrophones would be located within the streamer;
- waste management including,
 - food waste maceration and discharge and handling of sewage and grey water as per regulations for other NTCL vessels; and
 - storage of other domestic waste aboard the vessels and discharge at NTCL facilities;
- fuel storage and supply including,
 - use of an NTCL fuel barge; and
 - refueling in reasonable weather conditions in compliance with Transport Canada Arctic Waters Oil Transfer Guidelines.

Request for Review and Comment

The NEB requests that you review the information contained in this letter and provide your comments to Terry Baker, Chief Conservation Officer, NEB by 23 May 2002. Should you require a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment report, please contact WesternGeco directly (Bob White at Tel: 867-678-2555 or Marty Swager at Tel: 403-509-4440). We ask that you provide WesternGeco with a copy of any response in respect of the above requests.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Laura Van Ham, Environmental Specialist at Tel: (403) 299-2769, Fax: (403) 292-5876, or email: lvaham@neb-one.gc.ca. Thank you.

Yours truly,



for/ T.M. Baker
Chief Conservation Officer

lavh/Attachments

WesternGeco Mackenzie River 2D Seismic Program 2002
Preliminary Screening Notification – Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act

2 May 2002

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(Please contact Laura Van Ham at 403-299-2769
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2 May 2002

Preliminary Screening Notification – Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act

Distribution List – Continued

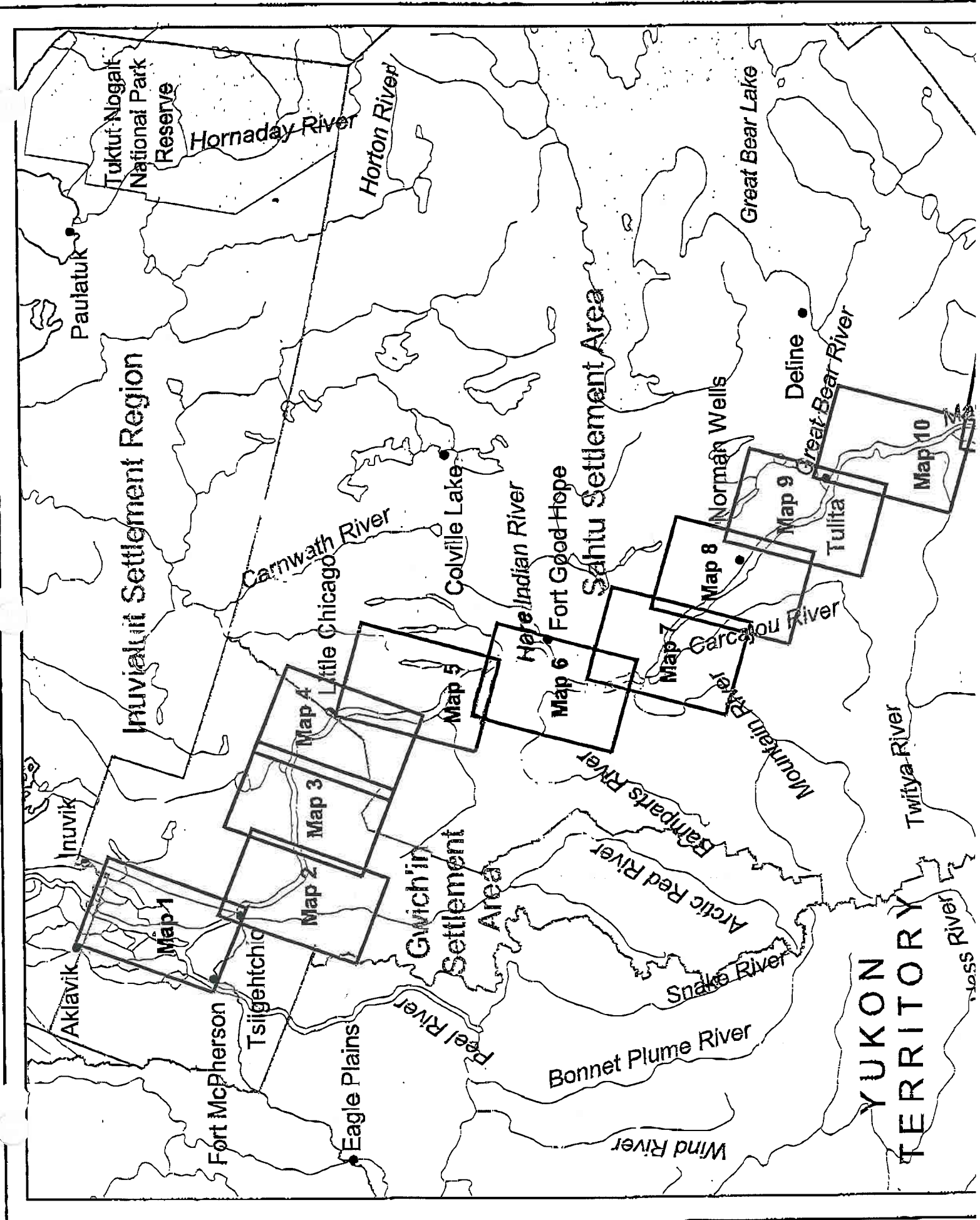
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Taniton, Raymond - President - Deline Renewable Resources Council	(867) 589-4106
Tetlit Gwich'in Council / Renewable Resource Council	(867) 952-2212
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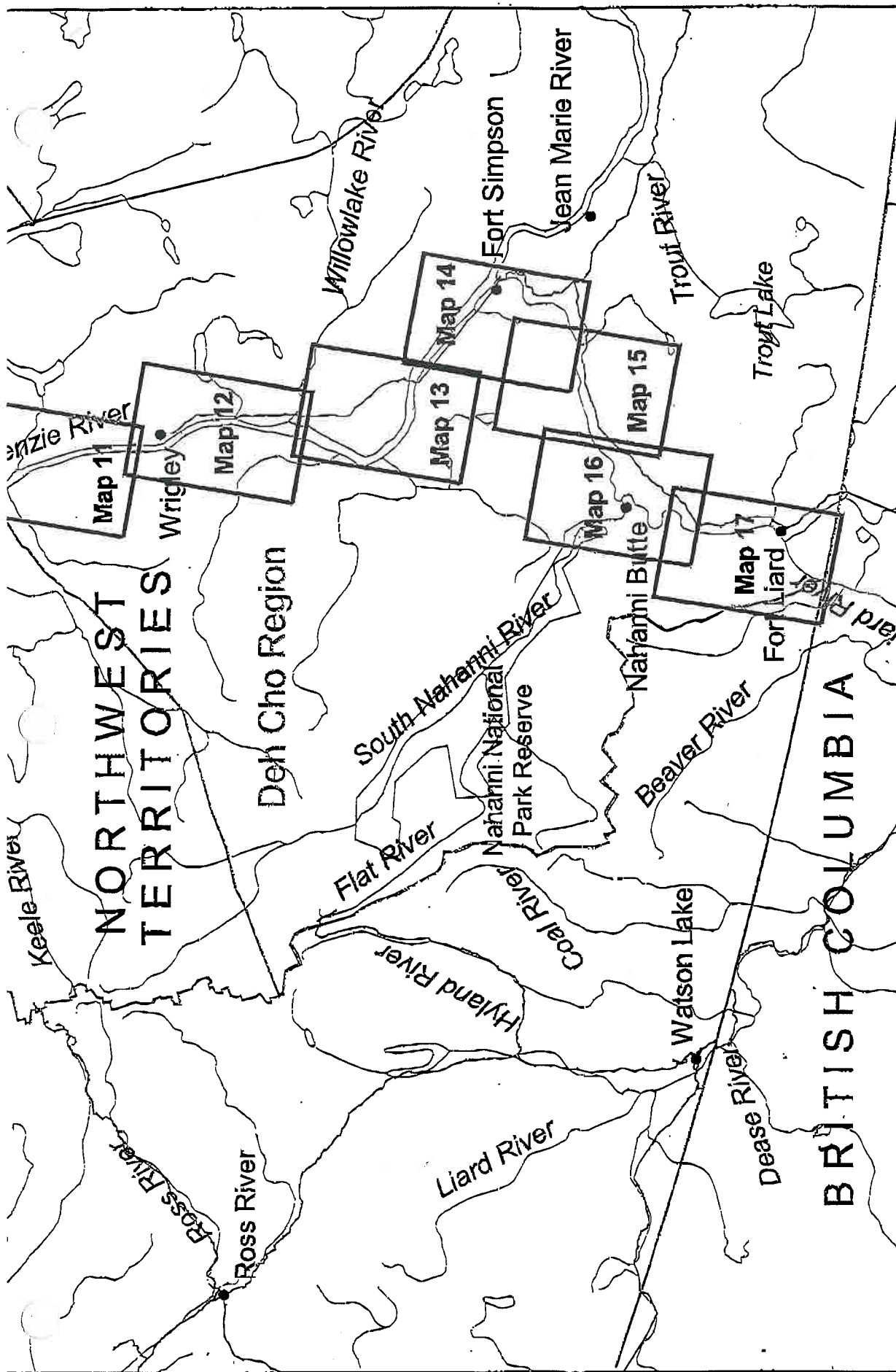
WesternGeco

Bob White
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LEGEND

- RIVERS AND STREAMS
- ROADS
- SETTLEMENT AREAS
- TOWNS
- OPEN WATER
- NATIONAL PARKS, PARK RESERVES OR HISTORIC SITES



I M G-Golder Corporation

REFERENCE

BASEMAP DATA COMPILED FROM 1:1,000,000 OR LARGER SCALE.



**MACKENZIE RIVER
SEISMIC ROUTE 2002**



DATE: 09 Apr. 2002 SCALE: 1:250,000

APPROVAL: 1/2002/022-2218/Figures/250K_11x17.apr

Projection: Lambert Conformal
Contour
Spheroid: WGS 84

DRAWN: J.L.
CHECKED:
REVIEWED:

Index
Map