

Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development

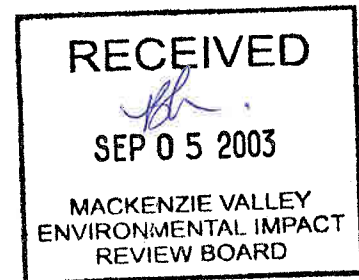


Ministre des Affaires
indiennes et du Nord canadien

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

SEP 5 2003

Mr. Todd Burlingame
Chair
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
PO Box 938
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7



Dear Mr. Burlingame:

As the federal Minister, and on behalf of the Responsible Ministers with jurisdiction related to this development, I am writing to convey the decision on the Report of Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Northrock Summit Creek B-44 Exploratory Well, submitted by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) on August 8, 2003.

This decision was taken after a review of the EA report, and in consultation with the Responsible Ministers.

Pursuant to sub-section 130(1)(b)(i), of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA), the Responsible Ministers and I have agreed to adopt the recommendation of the MVEIRB under subsection 128(1)(b)(ii), of the MVRMA, as set out in the EA report.

The Northwest Territories' regional office will respond separately to the suggestions in the EA report that are directed to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. I wish to thank the MVEIRB members and officials for discharging their duties under the MVRMA.

Yours sincerely,

Robert D. Nault, PC, MP

Canada

cc: **The Honourable David Anderson, Minister of the Environment**
The Honourable Jim Antoine, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development,
Government of the Northwest Territories
The National Energy Board
Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
Luciano Azzolini
Fort Norman Metis Land Corporation
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Sahtu Land and Water Board