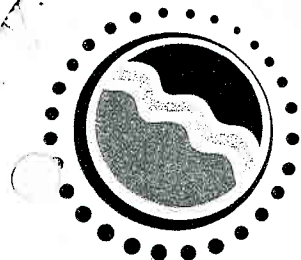


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May 20, 2003

James C. White
Vice President
North and South America
WesternGeco
10001 Richmond
Houston, TX 77042

Dear Mr. White:

Re: **WesternGeco Mackenzie Delta and
Mackenzie River 2-D Seismic Projects – 2003**

Ref. 124

On May 15th the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) received correspondence from your company (attached) that informed the Board of your decision to delay the above mentioned seismic projects until 2004. The letter cites that:

“The main reason for delaying the projects is that as of today, we do not have confidence in the predicted time for decision and permitting through the Mackenzie Valley (MVEIRB) process”.

The letter then goes on to state that you would “like the MVEIRB review and assessment, and permitting process, to continue for our projects without delay.”

This letter is to ensure that the facts of the review are clear and part of the public record.

- **Development of the Environmental Assessment work plan:** The work plan establishes the timeline for an environmental assessment. WesternGeco was invited to participate in the development of the work plan for this environmental assessment (EA). However, *WesternGeco chose not to provide any advice to the Board in this regard.*
- **Approval of the work plan:** After considering all comments received by the participants the *Board approved the work plan on January 27, 2003.*
- **Status of the Environmental Assessment:** The Environmental Assessment of WesternGeco Mackenzie Delta and Mackenzie River 2-D Seismic Projects continues to be on schedule and in keeping with the approved work plan.

Given the record of the EA to date, I can assure you that the Review Board will continue to meet our obligations as identified in the work plan.

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To ensure that the potential for delay is minimized WesternGeco is encouraged to take full advantage of opportunities to engage the process as and when they are made available during the course of the EA.

Sincerely,



Todd Burlingame
Chairman

Cc: Honorable Robert Nault
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Ken Vollman, Chairman
National Energy Board

Robert Hornel, Chairman
Environmental Impact Review Board
Inuvialuit Settlement Region

Attachment

