



November 20, 2002

Vern Christensen, Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre,
Box 938
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7

19th November 2002

Dear Mr. Christensen,

As you know we have been in contact with your staff recently, looking for advice concerning our proposed 2-D seismic project on the Mackenzie River. The assessment process was put on hold by MVEIRB in early summer, pending the completion of test studies. The test studies comprised acoustic measurements, fish studies and wildlife monitoring. Discussions with Joe Acorn and Alan Ehrlich centred on using three documents to comprise the new EIA, namely the April 2002 screening level EIA; the I.R. responses to the NEB with reference to the April application; and the test study report. We are just completing test study reporting and have been re-evaluating the most appropriate format for the EIA to MVEIRB. What we wish to do is consider a format that will be most easy to understand by reviewers. To that end, we suggest that it will likely be best to edit the April 2002 screening level application, including additional information given as I.R. responses and bringing in relevant data from the test studies. In this way the single EIA document will be up to date in all respects. Results from the test studies would be included in full as appendices to the EIA. As you can see from this last point, we have reconsidered the need to keep aspects of the test studies confidential. In order to facilitate a straightforward and open EIA process, we shall now not be requesting that aspects of the studies be confidential.

The revised suggestions for format and questions on options to formally re-start the EIA process, were discussed by our consultant with Roland Semjanovs on 8th November, for onward transmittal to you. With Alan away, Louie Azzolini got back to our consultant on 12th November. Louie suggested that we should feel free to note the suggested EIA format in a memo to you, as we have done above. He further suggested that we may produce a draft Terms of Reference and Draft Work Plan for the proposed 2-D River Seismic Project. That draft would re-confirm the scope of the Project and assist the MVEIRB to restart the EIA process. Louie suggested that the EIA would be taken off hold status and re-started formally on the date that the draft is received by MVEIRB. This suggestion seems a good one and we propose to provide you with a Draft Terms of

Reference and Work Plan by the end of November 2002. As your process allows, we would be happy to discuss that draft after you review it.

One last point. As promised with regulators, we are having a technical session to review the test study results on December 5th in Calgary. We understand from Alan that MVEIRB staff may attend such an open, multi-agency technical session, but that December 5th is not convenient. A scheduling problem occurred for a number of interested parties, so a second technical session will occur in Yellowknife on 12th December. We hope that appropriate staff will be able to attend.

Please get back to me to discuss any aspect of this letter.

Yours Sincerely,

WesternGeco

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Rosindell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Keith Rosindell

Cc Derek A. Melton, IMG-Golder Corporation