



January 14, 2009

INFORMATION LETTER # OGC 09-03

Subject: Horn River Basin Geophysical Program Requirements

To: Industry Clients

Effective Date: Immediate

Background:

The *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act* (the Act), Section 32(3) authorizes the Commissioner to issue or renew a geophysical licence, and Section 33(1) of the Act enables the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) to impose conditions on a geophysical exploration project.

All geophysical projects proposed in the Horn River Basin (HRB) will be evaluated for consistency with this geophysical program guidance (see attached map).

The purpose of this guidance is to identify how seismic programs in the HRB can be planned and implemented in a manner that minimizes the disturbance of ecosystems within the basin. This guidance has been developed to be consistent with Area Operating Protocols currently under development. This guidance is in addition to guidance contained in the Geophysical Operations Manual and the Environmental Practices Summary.

Requirement:

Proposed seismic programs in the HRB must meet the following criteria:

1. No programs are to overlap unless applicants commit to using common source and receiver lines in the area of overlap, with no new or additional clearing.
2. Source lines are a maximum of 3m in width with meandering avoidance techniques and sight line screens (“moose blinds”) at least every 200m.
3. Receiver lines are a maximum of 2m in width with meandering avoidance techniques and sight line screens (“moose blinds”) at least every 200m. If necessary, for access or safety reasons, every 4th receiver line may be widened to a maximum of 3m.
4. Lines must be hand-cut within areas identified by the OGC.
5. Orient source and receiver lines to follow existing or planned seismic survey lines to minimize the need for additional clearing for future seismic projects.
6. Distance between source lines must be greater than 200m.
7. Any approved geophysical permit issued will be valid for a maximum of one year from date of issue.

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The OGC will review all geophysical permit applications proposed for the HRB for consistency with the criteria listed above. Any departure from the above criteria must be justified operationally at the time of application. Seismic program applications that cover an area larger than 35 square kilometres or entail more than 200 hectares of new cut will require enhanced consultation with First Nations. This enhanced consultation includes a 20 day review and response period as described in the First Nations Consultation Protocol Agreements. If there are overlapping geophysical programs, the OGC will contact both applicants to provide contact information enabling each to coordinate their programs with others in the same location.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact:

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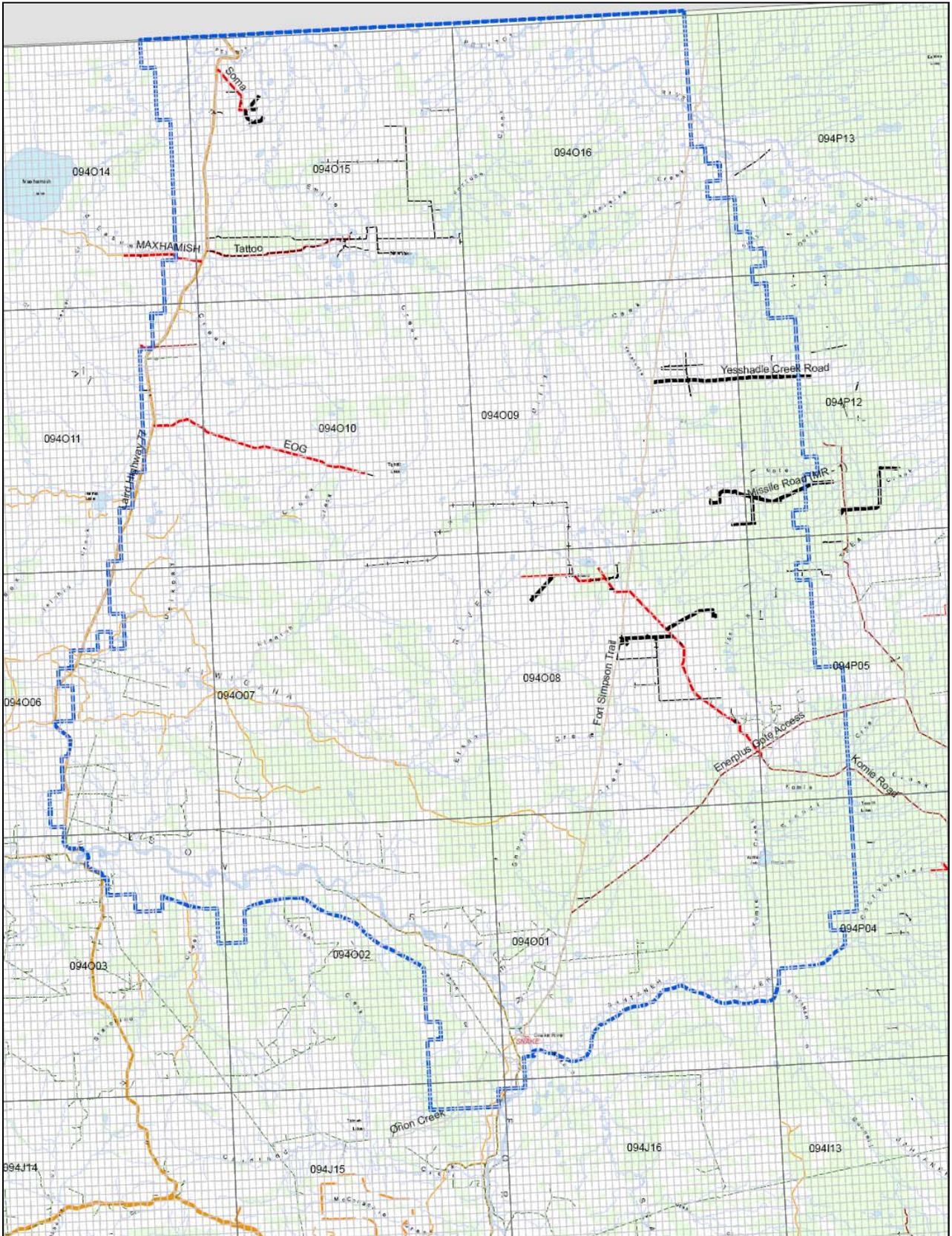
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Original signed by:

Alex Ferguson

Commissioner

BC Oil and Gas Commission



Horn River Project Area



-  Horn River Project Area
-  First Nations Communities
-  River/Stream/Creek
-  Lake
-  Marsh



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