



Sahtu Land and Water Board

Staff Report

Division: Land and Water Program	File No. S05B-003 / S05L3-002
Permit Type: Seismic	Licence Type: Municipal
Date Prepared: August 18, 2021	Meeting Date: September 23, 2021
Subject: Final Plan for Land Use Permit S05B-003 – Summit Creek Exploration Licence EL 397 – Seismic and Little Smith Staging Area -- 60 km SSW of Tulit'a, NWT	

1.0 Purpose/Report Summary

To present the Final Plan for the Summit Creek Seismic Program and Little Smith Staging Area submitted by Husky Oil Operations Limited (Husky) for Board approval and clearance (Attachment 1).

2.0 Background

Husky completed an Exploratory Seismic Program on Exploration Licence EL 397 in the Summit Creek – Keele River area that consisted of 197 km of new hand cut 2D seismic lines (11 lines) in the summer 2005.

2.1 Project Overview

The Program used the Little Smith Staging area (adjacent to Enbridge Pipelines KP160 valve station and airstrip) for operation of a camp for crew accommodation for the summer helicopter portable seismic program. A municipal Water Licence S05L3-003 was issued for use of water and deposit of waste for the camp using a portable sewage treatment system. The camp was used in 2005, after which the staging area was used for the storage of drilling equipment, related supplies, and fuel storage. All equipment and material were removed from the site by barge in 2012.

Husky provided two letter reports (Annual Report and Summer Site Inspection Report) for the 2012 to 2020 period confirming that no activities were conducted on Summit Creek EL397 Seismic or the Little Smith Staging Area in relation to Licence S05L3-002 (Attachment 2).

The original program had intended to complete approximately 250 km of 2D seismic data and 215 km² of 3D seismic data. The 3D seismic program was dropped.

The hand cut seismic lines were completed using helicopter portable drilling and recording techniques to minimize ground traffic and disturbance. Wherever possible, the seismic lines followed a meandering path and vegetation was cleared by hand to a width of 1.5 metres.

Seismic shot holes were drilled at 150 m intervals and the receiver geophones were spaced at 25 m intervals. Clean-up was conducted at the same time as the recording phase, with all slash bucked and laid flat to the ground, shot holes plugged and reclaimed with a native grass seed mix where required, and all lath, flagging tape and trash removed.

The most recent Inspection Report dated July 17, 2019, noted an abundance of vegetation, all permit conditions met and a recommendation for file closure (Attachment 3).

2.2 Process Requirements

Permit Start Date: July 15, 2005

Expiry Date: July 14, 2012

Final Plan Submitted: November 10, 2020

A Type A Land Use Permit was required for the following activities: Use and operation of heavy equipment, construction, and operation of a camp, clearing of land and fuel use and storage.

A Type B Water Licence was required for the use of water and deposit of waste for a camp.

3.0 Comments

3.1 Land Use Fees

In total Husky submitted fees of \$10,200.00 for the Land Use Permit, including the \$150.00 non-refundable application fee. The actual area of land used for the Summit Creek Seismic Program and the Little Smith Staging Area was 47 ha of which 23 ha was Federal Land and 24 ha Sahtu Private Settlement Lands. Schedule 1 of the MVLUR states that a Land Use Fee for federal public lands of \$50.00/hectare will be made if lands proposed to be used exceed two hectares. In the MVLUR there is no distinction for parts of a hectare.

	Hectares	Land Use Fee (\$)
Submitted with Original Application	201	\$10,050.00
Actual Crown Land Used	23.0	\$1,150.00
Total Owing/Refund		\$8,900.00

*Note: The original application fee includes two hectares free under the MVLUR

There has been an overpayment of land use fees of \$ 8,900.00. Since the Permit was issued prior to devolution of the NWT on April 1, 2014, the land use fees will be refundable from Canada.

3.2 Security Deposit

No security deposit was required for this Project.

3.3 Other Agency Comments

The Manager, Resource Management for the GNWT – Department of Lands, Sahtu Region has confirmed that they have no concerns with the file and recommend File Closure (Attachment 3).

4.0 Conclusion and Recommendation

Section 33 of the MVLUR states: *When a permittee has complied with all conditions of the permit and with these Regulations, the Board shall issue a letter of clearance to the permittee with a copy to the federal Minister.*”

Board staff recommend that the Board:

- Make a motion to accept the Final Plan and issue a letter of clearance (Attachment 4) to the Permittee with copy to the Government of Canada for the refund of land use fees.
- Make a motion to close the accompanying Water Licence S05L3-002.

5.0 Reference Material Attached

- 5.1 Husky Oil Operations Ltd. Final Plan with location maps
- 5.2 Husky 2012 to 2020 Annual Report and Summer Site Inspection for S05L3-002
- 5.3 Inspection Report from GNWT-Lands
- 5.4 Letter of Clearance

Respectfully submitted,



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