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393-6232



Economic Development

Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

May 31, 2000

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Joy Waters, ADM Renewable Resources

FROM: Janet Moodie, ADM, Economic Development

RE: YPAS Planning Initiatives for the Northeast Yukon

Judith

I am writing in response to your April 14<sup>th</sup> memo to Lois Craig regarding the YPAS planning initiatives in the Northeast Yukon. In keeping with the approved 1999/2000 YPAS workplan, which identifies the Eagle Plains and British Richardson Mountain ecoregions as priorities, we have selected the area within the Eagle Plains ecoregion for our geochemical program this summer. The collection of geochemical data in this area will allow us to develop detailed resource assessments in support of Step #3 of future YPAS initiatives in this area.

The discussion that occurred at our April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting with our respective Deputies highlights the need for the development of a multi-year YPAS workplan that can be approved by Cabinet and used to guide the research and data collection that is required to support this initiative. In the absence of such a workplan, neither of our departments has the direction that is necessary to gear our data collection programs so that they properly support the YPAS initiative.

With regards to the collection and use of geochemical data in support of YPAS, geochemical data is required in order for us to develop *Detailed Mineral Resource Assessments*. The Detailed Assessment supports Step #3 of the YPAS process (Identify a Study Area). For greater clarity, the Protected Areas Strategy identifies three steps where resource assessment information will be collected. These are Steps #1, #3 and #5. We are of the view that the following levels of resource assessments need to be completed in support of each of these steps:

*Step #1 (Area of Interest identification):* Regional Resource Assessments will be completed for both oil and gas and minerals. The Regional Assessment for oil and gas has been completed for all

KLONDIKE  
GOLD RUSH

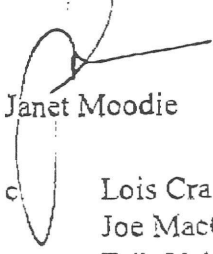
of the Yukon (except for the withdrawn areas in the north) and Regional Mineral Assessments will be completed for the entire Yukon over the next two years.

*Step #3 (Identify a Study Area):* Detailed Resource Assessments will be completed for both oil and gas and minerals in support of study area identification. Detailed mineral resource assessments require geochemical data in order to rank the various tracts of land. The geochemical data has already been collected for approximately 75 percent of the Yukon and it is anticipated that it will eventually be completed for all lands except for existing parks and those not suitable for this type of analysis. We have recently mapped the areas where standard geochemical information will not yield suitable data (see map attached). Till sampling surveys would yield appropriate information for these areas but due to the time and resources required to complete this work, we do not feel it is feasible to pursue this.

*Step #5 (Complete the Protected Area Proposal):* This step calls for the collection of any additional resource assessment information that is required in support of the completion of the final protected area proposal. The collection of resource assessment information at this stage will depend on data gaps identified from geochemical survey results and questions that have been identified during the YPAS process. Additional information required in support of step #5 would come about in the form of fieldwork and additional analysis completed on specific areas within the study area. This is the least formal level of resource assessment support and will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis in relation to the extent of assessment work that is required.

The information presented above is described in more detail in the Resource Assessment presentation that we are preparing for DMELI. We are still anxious to proceed with this presentation and to include the standards that government envisions for ecological assessments as well. We are hopeful that there will be an opportunity to make this presentation over the next 4 to 6 weeks.

I hope that this clarifies our views on resource assessments in support of YPAS and we look forward to working with you in developing the 2000/01 YPAS workplan. If you have any further questions about the geochemical work that we will be undertaking or if you would like to discuss the ongoing internal YPAS review please feel free contact me.



Janet Moodie

Lois Craig  
Joe MacGillivray  
Erik Val  
Laura Prentice



## Memorandum

**To:** Lois Craig, ADM, Economic Development

**From:** Joy Waters, ADM, Renewable Resources

**Date:** April 14, 2000

**Re:** YPAS Planning Initiatives for the Northeast Yukon

I am writing to provide you with the YPAS information that your department can use to plan your future geological field programs. The current YPAS Work Plan (1999-2000) approved by Cabinet identifies the Arctic Circle/ Dempster Highway area of Northeast Yukon as the next YPAS planning priority. The Work Plan identifies this area to include the British Richardson Mountains and Eagle Plains eco-regions.

However, as mentioned at our April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting with Maurice and Bill, after the election we will be seeking a renewed YPAS mandate by submitting the 2000-2001 Work Plan to Cabinet. In that work plan, which we will review with Economic Development beforehand, we intend to propose, as one option, that this planning initiative also include the Peel River Plateau and Fort MacPherson Plain eco-regions.

On another, but related matter, I would like to ask if you could clarify at what stage in the YPAS planning process your department feels that geo-chemical data is required. On March 22, 2000 we were told that regional geological data is sufficient to identify areas of interest and that geo-chemical data is required to define a study area. On April 12, 2000 your geology staff indicated that the regional geological data would be sufficient for both the area of interest stage as well as the study area stage, and that geo-chemical data would only be required when defining protected area boundaries. It would be helpful for us to understand exactly at what stage which level of assessment is required.

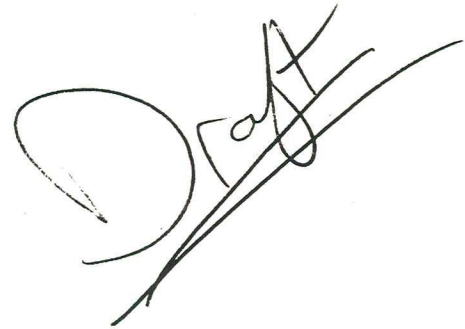
I hope that this information will be of assistance as your department plans its future fieldwork program. I also look forward to your response regarding when geo-chemical data is required in the YPAS planning process.

Joy Waters

cc.

Erik Val

May 26, 2000



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Joy Waters, ADM Renewable Resources  
**FROM:** Janet Moodie, ADM, Economic Development  
**RE:** **YPAS Planning Initiatives for the Northeast Yukon**

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I am writing in response to your April 14<sup>th</sup> memo to Lois Craig regarding the YPAS planning initiatives in the Northeast Yukon. In keeping with the approved 1999/2000 YPAS workplan, which identifies the Eagle Plains and British Richardson Mountain ecoregions as priorities, we have selected the area within the Eagle Plains ecoregion for our geo-chemical program this summer. The collection of geo-chemical data in this area will allow us to develop detailed resource assessments in support of Step #3 of any future YPAS initiatives that will be proceeding in this area.

The discussion that occurred at our April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting with our respective Deputies highlights the need for the development of a multi-year YPAS workplan that can be approved by Cabinet and used to guide the research and data collection that is required to support this initiative. In the absence of such a workplan, neither of our departments has the direction that is necessary to gear our data collection programs so that they properly support the YPAS initiative.

With regards to the collection and use of geo-chemical data in support of YPAS, we have held the view that geo-chemical data is required in order for us to develop *Detailed Mineral Resource Assessments*. The Detailed Assessment is required in support of Step #3 of the YPAS process (Identify a Study Area). For greater clarity, the Protected Areas Strategy identifies three steps where resource assessment information will be collected. These are Step #1, #3 and #5. We envision that the following levels of resource assessments will be completed in support of each of these steps:

**Step #1 (Area of Interest identification):** Regional Resource Assessments will be completed for both oil and gas and minerals. The Regional Assessment for oil and gas has been completed for all of the Yukon (except for the withdrawn areas in the north) and Regional Mineral Assessments will be completed for the entire Yukon over the next two years.

**Step #3 (Identify a Study Area):** Detailed Resource Assessments will be completed for both oil and gas and minerals in support of study area identification. Detailed mineral resource assessments require geo-chemical data in order to rank the various tracts of land. The geo-chemical data has already been collected for approximately 75 percent of the Yukon and it is anticipated that it will eventually be completed for all lands except those not suitable for this type of analysis. We are ~~currently working on~~ a map that will identify those areas where we feel the geo-chemical information will not yield suitable/reliable data.

→ glacial lakes + thick fill map

Eco Regions vs RGS → lots of categories not fully covered

**Step #5 (Complete the Protected Area Proposal):** This step calls for the collection of any additional resource assessment information that is required in support of the completion of the final protected area proposal. The collection of resource assessment information at this stage will depend on data gaps and questions that have been identified during the YPAS process. Additional information required in support of step #5 would come about in the form of fieldwork and additional analysis completed on specific areas within the study area. This is the least formal level of resource assessment support and will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis in relation to the extent of assessment work that is required.

The information presented above is described in more detail in the Resource Assessment presentation that we are preparing for DMELI. We are still anxious to proceed with this presentation and to include the standards that government envisions for ecological assessments as well. We are hopeful that there will be an opportunity to make this presentation over the next 4 to 6 weeks.

I hope that this clarifies our views on resource assessments in support of YPAS and we look forward to working with you in developing the 2000/01 YPAS workplan. If you have any further questions about the geo-chemical work that we will be undertaking or if you would like to discuss the ongoing internal YPAS review please feel free contact me.

Janet Moodie

c.        Lois Craig  
            Joe MacGillivray  
            Erik Val