

Environmental Studies Research Fund (NWT)

U.S. Canada Northern Oil and Gas Research Forum
Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples in Oil and Gas Activities
October 12, 2017
Anchorage, Alaska
Scott Gedak

What is the ESRF (NWT)

- Fund to finance environmental and social studies pertaining to the manner in which, and the terms and conditions under which, petroleum exploration, development and production activities should be conducted in the NWT
- Collaborative effort between the Government of the NWT, industry and the public
- Devolution of the Northwest Territories April 1, 2014
 - Fund established under the *Petroleum Resources Act*
 - Replaced the federal Environmental Studies Research Fund for lands within the NWT

Administration of the ESRF(NWT)

- Management Board Members appointed by the Minister of Industry Tourism and Investment
 - Government of the Northwest Territories (2)
 - Oil and gas industry (2)
 - Public (1)
- Secretariat within the Department of Energy and Natural Resources

Duties of the Management Board

- Determine research priorities and develop an annual study program
 - approve study costs and expenses
 - administer the selection of persons to undertake the studies
- Provide, for the Minister's approval, an annual budget to support the study programs and administrative costs
- Provide the Minister with an annual report summarizing study progress and financial details respecting the Fund
- Recommend levy rates and schedule

Funding

- Levy rates set by the Minister of Industry Tourism and Investment
- Levies paid by all interest holders of lands in the NWT based upon their active land holdings (total number of hectares)
 - Exploration Licenses
 - Production Licenses
 - Significant Discovery Licenses

Assessing Research Priorities

Engagement and coordination with organizations including:

- Decision makers
 - *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*
 - Land and Water Boards (
 - Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
 - *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*
 - Environmental Screening Committee
 - Environmental Impact Review Board
- GNWT departments and researchers
 - Northwest Territories Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program
 - Aurora College
- Industry
 - Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

Call for Proposals

- Depending on the priorities set by the Management Board, a combination of:
 - Open call for proposals
 - Directed call for proposal
 - Unsolicited proposals

Assessing Proposals

- Why is the project needed? What is the technology or knowledge gap it is intended to address and what is the relevance to NWT decision makers?
- How is the requested ESRF funding being leveraged?
- Are the techniques developed/used transferable to other areas and species in the NWT?
- How innovative or novel is the proposed research study?
- Does the project complement work being done elsewhere, and if so, how will it link to that work?
- What is the level of community engagement and participation?
- How will project results be communicated?
- Is there a sustainable capability and capacity among all the proposed collaborators to undertake the proposed work over the duration of the project?

ESRF (NWT)

- Current Management Board:
 - Andrew Applejohn, GNWT ENR (Chair)
 - Ken Hansen, Industry (Vice Chair)
 - Menzie McEachern, GNWT ITI
 - Scott Gedak, Industry
 - Ray Case, Public
- For more information and publications
<http://nwt-esrf.org>

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