



Imperial Oil Limited
237 - 4th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB T2P 0H6

News Release

**Mackenzie Gas Project extends geotechnical work program;
awards additional contracts to Northern companies**

Calgary, AB., April 1, 2003 - Imperial Oil Resources, on behalf of the Mackenzie Gas Project proponents, has announced the extension of a geotechnical work program that will assist in advancing the proposed project.

The Mackenzie Gas Project is being proposed by Imperial, ConocoPhillips Canada, Shell Canada Limited, ExxonMobil Canada and the Aboriginal Pipeline Group (APG). The APG was formed in 2000 to represent the interest of the Aboriginal peoples of the Northwest Territories in the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline.

The extended work program, which begins immediately in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA), will collect engineering data that will help to determine the optimal location of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline, including associated facilities. It will consist primarily of soil analysis and geotechnical surveys needed to support the development of regulatory applications for the proposed project. Regulatory approvals needed to proceed with the work program in the GSA have been received.

A similar program is currently underway in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and geotechnical work programs in other regions of the Northwest Territories are expected in the future.

Contracts required to carry out the geotechnical work program have been awarded to eight companies that are located in, or have business relationships with organizations in the GSA. These contracts cover services such as geotechnical consulting, geotechnical drilling, land surveying and emergency medical support. The contracts were awarded through ColtKBR, lead engineering contractor for the Mackenzie Gas Project.

Speaking on behalf of the Mackenzie Delta Producers Group and the APG, K.C. Williams, president and chief executive officer, Imperial Oil Resources, said "the Producers Group and the APG appreciate the hard work done by the Gwich'in Land Administration and the Gwich'in Land and Water Board in reviewing our applications. This is an important step forward for us."

The Mackenzie Gas Project involves natural gas production facilities, compression and gathering pipelines in the Mackenzie Delta area, and a pipeline system in the Mackenzie River valley. Imperial is the operator of the gas gathering and pipeline systems for the project.

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For further information, contact:

Hart Searle
Public Affairs
Imperial Oil Limited
(403) 237-2710