



To / À: J.S. Scott  
 Senior Science Advisor

From / De: Director General  
 Minerals & Continental Geoscience Br.

Security Classification - Classification de sécurité
Our File - Notre référence
Your File - Votre référence
Date July 16, 1992

Subject / Objet: **Specimen Collections Review - Draft Report**

1. I think you have done an excellent job in drawing all this together and putting it under one roof (even if that roof also stretches to cover lunatics, idiots and furious persons). You deserve much credit and probably a B&P. I have made many marginal comments (that is, comments in the margins, but not necessarily marginal) throughout. If readable, these comments should throw light on the topic of the margins, if nothing else.
2. When I read through all of this, a number of points seem to be shuffling and jockeying for position in the front of my head. Not necessarily in any order of priority these include:
  - a) The (apparently) muddled relationships between EMR and the National Archives and National Archives Act (pp. 17-19).
  - b) The fundamental question of who says we have to keep on saving old rocks, old bugs, old papers, etc.?: and if it is within our authority to decide this, then that seems to me to be job 1.
  - c) If we answer b) above, then there is a cascading hierarchy of things that have to do with mechanisms and guidelines: e.g. guidelines & mechanisms for:
    - i) curation and preservation
    - ii) culling and discard
    - iii) joint operations/responsibilities with other "stakeholders" (museums, Provinces, industry, etc.).
3. I guess what I am trying to say is that it seems to me the starting point is for GSC to develop and conscious philosophy of curation and archiving and not just proceed on the automatic assumption that all things geoscientific <sup>are</sup> and intrinsically valuable and thus all physical things relevant to geoscience knowledge (rocks, bugs, books, papers, maps, etc.) should be ipso facto saved. If we could make that decision, then I think we might have some hope on the rest.

4. As I note in my marginal notes, I think it would be useful to have some of these fundamental questions about philosophy, responsibilities and mandate summarized in a separate section up front. I realize that you may think that this would be (at this stage) too much on the prescriptive rather than descriptive side; nevertheless I think it would help set a framework for the discussion.

*As ever, in sincerity*



D.C. Findlay

DCF/db



*p.c. GMC*

*AGP RPK for action*

TO  
A

FROM  
DE

Ken Babcock  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Geological Survey of Canada

David Oulton  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Energy Sector

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER  
SOUS-MINISTRE ADJOINT

REC'D  
AUG 27 1992

RECEIVED

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA  
COMMISSION GEOLOGIQUE DU CANADA

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ	
OUR FILE - N / RÉFÉRENCE	
YOUR FILE - V / RÉFÉRENCE	
DATE	August 26, 1992

SUBJECT  
OBJET

CORE STORAGE AND THE YUKON NORTHERN ACCORD

Over the last number of months we, along with our colleagues at the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), have been actively negotiating on a Northern Energy Accord. This Accord will see the transfer of existing authorities over the administration of oil and gas (including those currently exercised by the Minister of DIAND under the *Canada Petroleum Resources Act* (CPRA) and the *Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act*), as well as the authority to establish oil and gas legislation, to the territories.

You will recall that in the case of the Atlantic Accord with Newfoundland and the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord, provisions were made for the establishment of core storage facilities in the provinces. In ongoing discussions with the Yukon it has been suggested that such a facility also be established in the Yukon with the Government of Canada bearing the set up cost (estimated at \$750,000). In separate private discussions, however, Yukon officials have indicated that they recognize that it would be very costly and inefficient to establish a separate core facility in the territory. Further, they agree that the oil and gas companies would probably prefer that such facilities remain in Calgary where most of their geologists are located. Recognizing this, they have indicated they would be willing to have the core storage facility remain in Calgary, subject to the condition that there be no cost imposed on Yukon now or in future.

It is our understanding that the cores originating in the Yukon are stored in your facilities at the Institute of Sedimentary and Petroleum Geology in Calgary. We further understand that the cost of such storage is not a large portion of your operation. We would appreciate, however, having an estimate of what annual costs you might attribute to the

Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research  
Box 450, University of Colorado,  
Boulder, Colorado 80309, USA

Phone. 303-492-5183; Fax. 303-492-6388  
E-Mail: Internet "ANDREWS\_JT@CUBLDR.COLORADO.EDU"  
OMNET:INSTAAR.Library

Re: Core Depository Facility, AGC/BIO

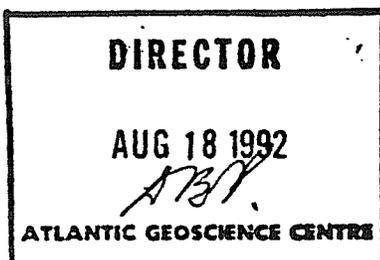
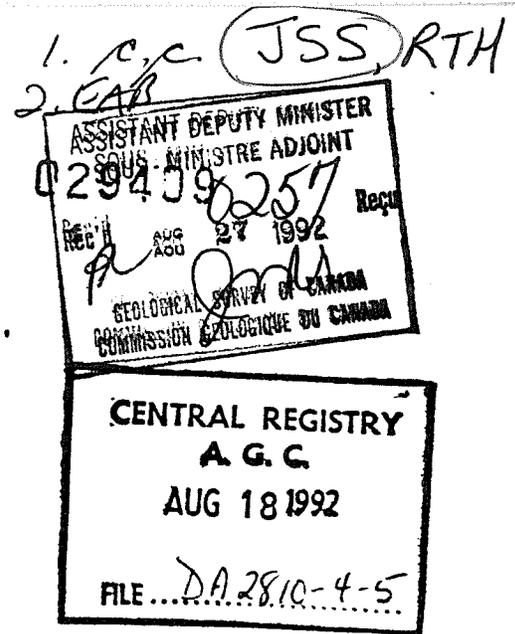
08/14/92

Dear David,

I have just returned from my annual visit to the Core Facility of the Atlantic Geoscience Center, Bedford Institute of Oceanography. Possibly the Canadian marine community does not fully appreciate the quality of the facility that is available, hence I thought it appropriate to write to you as Director and pass on some comments as an "outsider".

The collection of cores in the facility is impressive and has national and international significance, especially in the areas of global change, plaeoceanography, and sediment processes. The care and attention given the cores by the research staff is first class. Although I have not visited and sampled at all such facilities, I have had occasion to visit several, and I would like you to know that in my experience the AGC/BIO facility is second to none.

In days of tight budgets it is certainly appropriate to critical evaluate core collections. There may be a feeling that cores older than 10 years have no value to the research community. However, I think that response is wrong! In my own case I am now working on a series of cores which were collected in 1975 (HU75-009-IV) in the NW Labrador Sea. These cores had been well stored and cared for, but had not attracted any interest. However, two years ago I thought these cores might contain invaluable information on the history of the Laurentide Ice Sheet over the last 40,000 years or so. Because of the careful storage I was able to use



these cores, obtain foraminifera for dating, and the results will be published in "Geology" in the next few months. I am sure there are similar stories from other researchers. Thus I commend your institute for a superb facility and a staff who are a pleasure to work with. Thank you!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Andrews".

John T. Andrews, DSc  
Professor Geological Sciences