

# Available Areas for Expression of Interest within the Central Mackenzie Valley 2021



The following introduction and methodology are taken directly from the NTGO: NWT Open File Report 2005\_004, for the purposes of clarity and preservation of the contextual material. Hydrocarbon potential map citations are also directly taken from the original publication.

## Introduction

This is a qualitative map of comparative hydrocarbon potential in the Northwest Territories. It is not meant to be, nor should it be interpreted as, a rigorous, detailed, or quantitative resource assessment of hydrocarbon potential. The main purpose of this map is to complement ecological-themed maps in broad scale planning for, and identification of, potential protected areas (Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy, 2003). Industry users and community groups may also find it generally informative.

## Methodology

The basic methodology used in this study is similar to Gal and Jones (2003). It is entirely qualitative and, because it is knowledge-based, is somewhat subjective in nature. Established and conceptual hydrocarbon plays were identified primarily from existing literature. A hydrocarbon play is defined as a family of hydrocarbon pools and/or prospects that share common geological characteristics and history of hydrocarbon generation, migration, reservoir development, and trap configuration (Reinson et al., 1993). Established plays are demonstrated to exist by virtue of discovered pools with established reserves. Conceptual plays do not yet have any associated discoveries, but geological analyses indicate the possibility of their existence (Reinson et al., 1993). In this study, the identified plays are represented by and mapped according to the subsurface extent of possible reservoir rock. The reservoir rock is thus a proxy for the entire petroleum system. It is recognized that this is an oversimplification. However, mapping possible reservoir strata allows for a quick regional reconnaissance, using a relatively reliable dataset in a region that is largely under-explored, and in which few petroleum systems are fully understood or defined. The play areas are bounded by (near) horizontal planes (generally coincident with stratigraphic boundaries) and vertical boundaries are defined at faults, facies changes, erosional, or depositional subunit limits. In map space, the plays are two-dimensional polygons. Individual play polygons are likely to overlap, as several possible reservoir formations may be layered within the sedimentary rock succession at a particular location. The overlaps and intersections of play polygons are then used to define smaller polygons. Each of these will include a number of (overlapped) plays. The number of plays and the play type (established or conceptual) included in a given polygon area is at the core of this assessment methodology. Simply put, if all other factors are equal, an area with three conceptual plays has more potential than an area with only one conceptual play. Established plays are given a higher weighting than conceptual plays.

The assessment criteria partly follow those of the Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment (MERA) process used by the Geological Survey of Canada (Scotese et al., 1986; Jones et al., 1993). These criteria are based on the overall geological favourability for the presence of oil and / or natural gas, the occurrence of established and conceptual hydrocarbon plays, indications of hydrocarbons (shows), and known accumulations. The presence or probability of mapped structural closures or other trapping features is accounted for, but only in a general sense in this broad based study. Equal weighting is given to both oil and gas. For a reconnaissance-scale study such as this, it's the number and type of plays present that dominantly contribute to the assignment of hydrocarbon potential. The criteria for rankings of very low to very high potential (Table 1) follow Gal and Jones (2003) and Gal and Lariviere (2004).

Table 1. Potential Ranking Criteria

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Very High        | Geological environment is favourable for oil and/or gas. Multiple plays, at least one is established. Closures identified and mapped. Significant accumulations are known. |
| High             | Geological environment is favourable for oil and / or gas. Multiple plays. Closures identified and mapped. Known hydrocarbon occurrences.                                  |
| Moderate to High | Geological environment is favourable for oil and/or gas. At least three plays. Closures identified and mapped for at least one play.                                       |
| Moderate         | Geological environment is favourable for oil and/or gas. One or two plays. High probability of blind structural / stratigraphic closures.                                  |
| Low to Moderate  | Geological environment is mainly favourable for oil and / or gas. At least one conceptual play. High probability of blind structural / stratigraphic closures.             |
| Low              | Some aspects of geological environment are favourable for oil and / or gas. Significant probability of blind structural / stratigraphic closures.                          |
| Very Low         | Unfavourable geological environment.                                                                                                                                       |

## The Map

The map illustrates the locations within a portion of the Mackenzie Valley where expressions of interest will be accepted for the purposes of oil and gas exploration. Current oil and gas rights: significant discovery licences and exploration licences are shown in the context of hydrocarbon potential. The specific areas where expressions of interest will be accepted are illustrated by the oil and gas grid (grid, sections and unit areas). The unit areas which are the smallest squares on the map show the smallest divisible area of land where a piece of land can be licensed for oil and gas exploration leading to significant discovery and/or production. If an expression of interest for any particular section does not fully contain all the units within the section, or sections within a grid, the grid, section and units must be referencing must still be used to provide a full legal land description of the parcel to the government of the Northwest Territories.

When referencing parcels of land the grid and section must be given. If only portions of a section, i.e. the units, are wanted for an expression of interest or bid then those units within the section must be specified. A parcel of land needs to be described with the grid, section and the units in the following style: [ grid: 65-10 N, 126-00 W; sections: 51, 61, 62 (A, B, C, D), 71, 72 (A, B, C, D, E, F, I) ]. This example is a reference only and does not reflect any suggestion by the government of the Northwest Territories of where to express interest in other areas that are open for an expression of interest.

The polygons representing hydrocarbon potential are thematically coloured to reflect comparative hydrocarbon potential into three aggregated categories from the original seven of: (very low, low, low - moderate, moderate, moderate - high, high, very high) to three classes: (very low - low, low - moderate / moderate - high, high - very high). Oil and gas land parcels administered by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) are thematically symbolized into categories for exploration, significant discovery and production licences. The settled land claim areas for the Inuvialuit, Sahtu and Gwich'in are indicated with gradational boundary shading. Polygons indicated by a line pattern fill boundary depict the locations where first nations surface and surface / sub-surface rights are located. The shaded relief component of the main map utilizes the USGS NED product which has a spatial resolution of 1 arc-second.

The locator map uses the GATFED 2010 product which has a spatial resolution of 7.5 arc-seconds for the land shaded relief, and a combination of the IBCAO product, which has a spatial resolution of 30 arc-seconds in offshore areas and the ETOPO1 product which has a spatial resolution of 1 arc-minute for the offshore areas.

## Oil and Gas Rights and Grid References:

A reproduction of the original 1980s representative figure illustrating the Oil and Gas Grid system in the Northwest Territories has been created for inclusion in this map. The original illustration can be found via the following URL: [http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ-NOG/STAGING/texte-text/rm\\_r\\_sd\\_oggrid\\_pg\\_1361197570920\\_fra.pdf](http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ-NOG/STAGING/texte-text/rm_r_sd_oggrid_pg_1361197570920_fra.pdf)

At the time of the creation of the original graphic the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were one territory.

The Natural Resources Canada Oil and Gas Grid reference system can be found via the following URL: <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geomatics/canada-lands-surveys/1109240/GasData>

1:1,000,000 Atlas National Framework basemap data was compiled from Natural Resources Canada and can be found via the following URL: <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geography/topographic-information/free-data/geogratis/download-directory-documentation/17215>

The Northwest Territories oil and gas rights GIS data can be found via the following URL: <http://www.itn.gov.nt.ca/en/services/oil-and-gas-gis-data>

## Hydrocarbon Potential Map Citation:

Gal, L.P., 2005. Hydrocarbon Potential Ranking Map of the Sahtu and Gwich'in Settlement Areas, Map 1 of 2; Northwest Territories Geoscience Office, NWT Open File 2005-04, 2 maps, scale 1:1,000,000.

## Original NTGO Hydrocarbon Potential Map Reference Citations:

Fischbuch, N.R., 1984. Facies and reservoir analysis, Kee Scarp Formation, Norman Wells area, Northwest Territories; Geological Survey of Canada, Open File 1116.

Gal, L.P. and Jones, A.L., 2003. Evaluation of oil and gas potential in the Deh Cho Territory, C.S. Lord Northern Geoscience Center, Yellowknife, NWT. NWT Open File 2003-03, 88 p.

Gal, L.P. and Lariviere, J.M., 2004. Edehchic candidate protected area non-renewable resource assessment (Phase II), Northwest Territories; C.S. Lord Northern Geoscience Center, Yellowknife, NWT. NWT Open File 2004-01, 125 p.

International Frontier Resources Corporation, 2004. Progress Report, Summit (Winnipeg) B-44 Production Testing. News release dated October 8, 2004.

Janicki, E.P., 2004. Hydrocarbon pool studies of the Colville Hills; Northwest Territories Geoscience Office. NWT Open Report 2004-006.

Jones, T.A., Jefferson, C.W., and Morrell, G.R., 1992. Assessment of mineral and energy resource potential in the Brock Inlier-Bluenose Lake area, N.W.T.; Geological Survey of Canada, Open File 2434.

Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy, 2003. Mackenzie Valley Five-Year Action Plan (2004-2009). Conservation planning for pipeline development. Report prepared by NWT Protected Areas Strategy Secretariat.

Paramount Resources Ltd., 2004. Paramount Resources Ltd. updates its Northwest Territories Activities. Press release dated September 8, 2004.

Reinson, G.E., Lee, P.J., Walters, W., Osadetz, K.G., Bell, L.L., Price, P.A., Tollope, F., Campbell, R.I., and Barclay, J.E., 1993. Devonian gas resources of the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin. Part I: Geological play analysis and resource assessment; Geological Survey of Canada, Bulletin 452, p. 10-127.

Scotese, R.F.J., Jefferson, C.W., and Findlay, D.C., 1986. Northern Canada mineral resource assessment, in: Prospects for mineral resource assessment on public lands: Proceedings of the Leesburg Workshop; edited by S.M. Cargill and S.B. Green; U.S. Geological Survey, Circular 908, p. 111-139.

Unocal Corporation, 2005. Unocal announces discovery in Northwest Territories, Canada. News Release dated March 30, 2005.

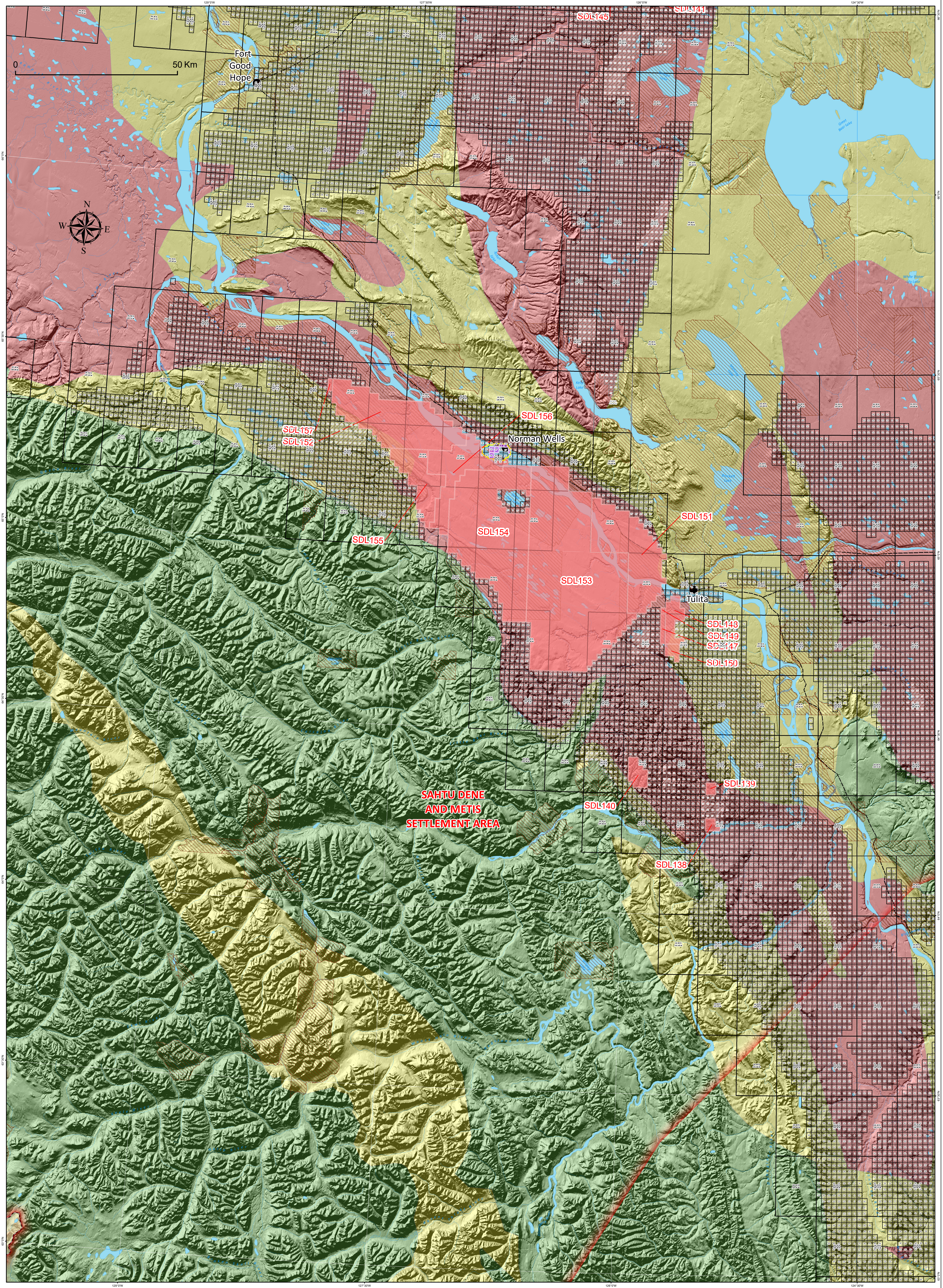
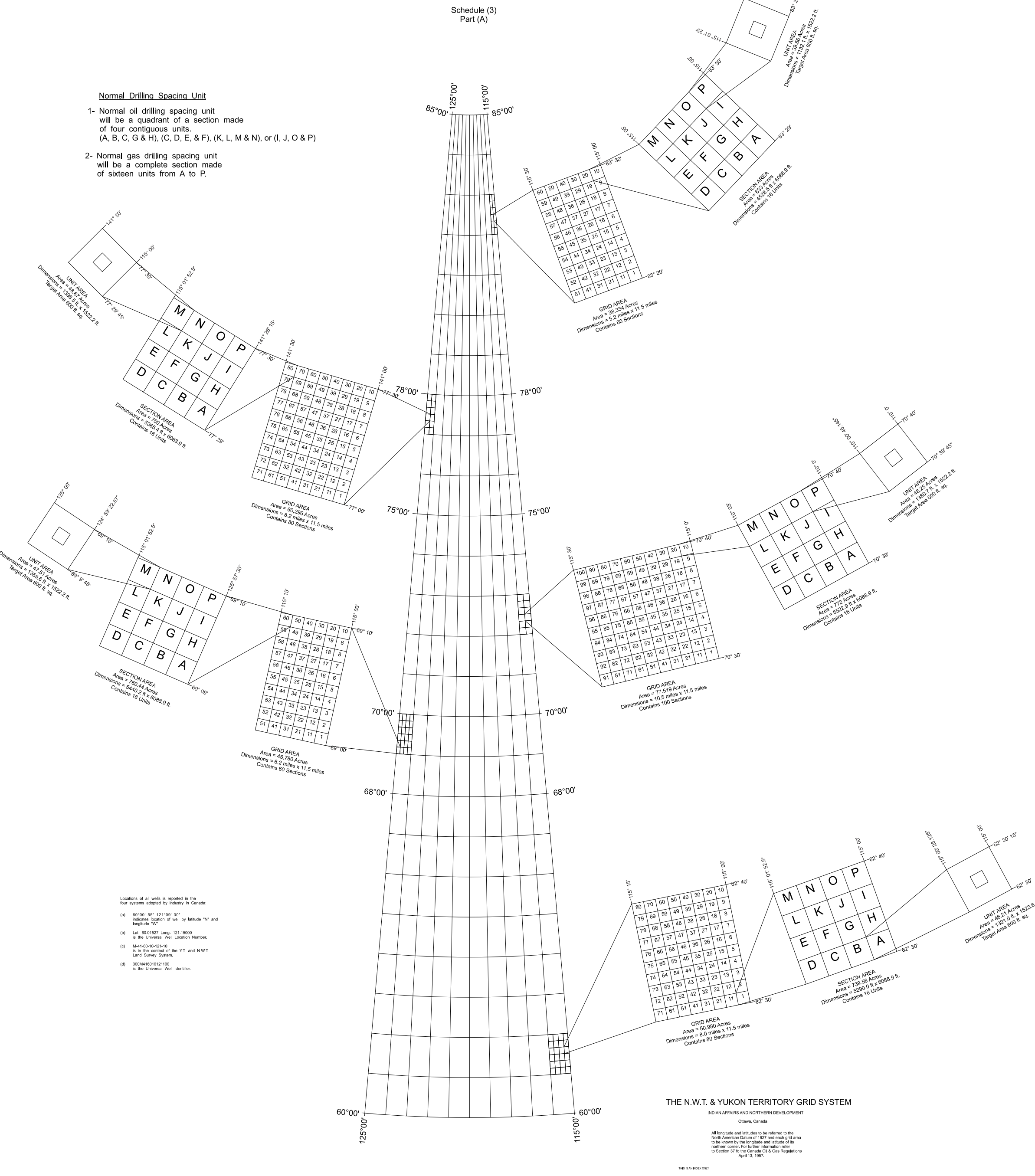
## Digital Elevation Model Citations:

Danielson, J.J., and Gesch, D.B., 2011. Global multi-resolution terrain elevation data 2010 (GMTED2010); U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2011-1073, 26 p. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2011/1073/>

Amante, C. and B.W. Eakins, 2009. ETOPO1 1 Arc-Minute Global Relief Model: Procedures, Data Sources and Analysis. NOAA Technical Memorandum NESDIS NGDC-24. National Geophysical Data Center, NOAA. doi:10.7289/V5C8276M [access date]. <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/global/global.html>

Archuleta, C.M., Constance, E.W., Arundel, S.T., Lowe, A.J., Montey, K.S., and Phillips, J.A., 2012. The National Map seamless digital elevation model specifications: U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods, book 11, chap. B9, 39 p., <https://doi.org/10.3133/tm11b9>

U.S. Geological Survey, The National Map, 2016, 3DEP products and services: The National Map, 3D Elevation Program Web page, accessed September 6, 2016 at [https://nationalmap.gov/3DEP/3dep\\_providers.html](https://nationalmap.gov/3DEP/3dep_providers.html)



Document Title: Open\_Exploration\_Areas\_Central\_Mackenzie\_Valley\_v28\_Jul15\_2021.mxd

Source: Mineral and Petroleum Resources Division

Industry Tourism and Investment

Document Status: FINAL

Document Security Level: PUBLIC

Date: July 15, 2021

Projection: Modified Lambert Conformal Conic

Central Meridian: 124.5° W

Standard Parallels: 62° N, 70° N

Datum: WGS84

If you have questions, comments, or feedback, please contact:

Petroleum Resources Division

1st Floor Semmler Building, Inuvik NT

Email: [petroleum@gov.nt.ca](mailto:petroleum@gov.nt.ca)

Website: [www.nwtpetroleum.com](http://www.nwtpetroleum.com)

Phone: (867) 777-7477

**Natural Resources Canada, 1:1,000,000 Atlas Basemap**

**Communities**

- Norman Wells
- Proven Area
- Oil and Gas Grids
- Indigenous Subsurface Lands
- Oil and Gas Sections
- Indigenous Subsurface Lands
- Oil and Gas Units
- Indigenous Subsurface Lands
- Unconstrained Oil and Gas Grids
- GNWT Subsurface Lands
- Unconstrained Oil and Gas Sections
- GNWT Subsurface Lands
- Unconstrained Oil and Gas Units
- GNWT Subsurface Lands

**Roads**

- Expressway / Highway
- Freeway
- Other Roads
- Winter Roads

**Aboriginal Owned Lands**

- Surface/Subsurface
- Surface

**Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada**

**Oil and Gas Rights**

- Exploration Licence
- Pioneer Production Lease
- Significant Discovery Licence

**Northwest Territories**

**Oil and Gas Rights**

- Exploration Licence
- Significant Discovery Declaration
- Significant Discovery Licence
- Production Licence
- Pioneer Production Lease

**Hydrocarbon Potential**

- High - Very High
- High / Moderate - Moderate - Low
- Low - Very Low

**Depth in Metres**

- < 50 - 25
- < 200 - 50
- < 500 - 200
- < 750 - 500
- < 1,000 - 750
- < 1,500 - 1,000
- < 2,000 - 1,500
- < 2,500 - 2,000
- < 3,000 - 2,500
- < 3,500 - 3,000
- < 4,000 - 3,500
- < 4,500 - 4,000
- < 5,000 - 4,500
- < 5,500 - 5,000
- < 6,000 - 5,500
- < 6,500 - 6,000
- < 7,000 - 6,500
- < 7,500 - 7,000
- < 8,000 - 7,500
- < 8,500 - 8,000
- < 9,000 - 8,500
- < 9,500 - 9,000
- < 10,000 - 9,500
- < 10,500 - 10,000
- < 11,000 - 10,500
- < 11,500 - 11,000
- < 12,000 - 11,500
- < 12,500 - 12,000
- < 13,000 - 12,500
- < 13,500 - 13,000
- < 14,000 - 13,500
- < 14,500 - 14,000
- < 15,000 - 14,500
- < 15,500 - 15,000
- < 16,000 - 15,500
- < 16,500 - 16,000
- < 17,000 - 16,500
- < 17,500 - 17,000
- < 18,000 - 17,500
- < 18,500 - 18,000
- < 19,000 - 18,500
- < 19,500 - 19,000
- < 20,000 - 19,500
- < 20,500 - 20,000
- < 21,000 - 20,500
- < 21,500 - 21,000
- < 22,000 - 21,500
- < 22,500 - 22,000
- < 23,000 - 22,500
- < 23,500 - 23,000
- < 24,000 - 23,500
- < 24,500 - 24,000
- < 25,000 - 24,500
- < 25,500 - 25,000
- < 26,000 - 25,500
- < 26,500 - 26,000
- < 27,000 - 26,500
- < 27,500 - 27,000
- < 28,000 - 27,500
- < 28,500 - 28,000
- < 29,000 - 28,500
- < 29,500 - 29,000
- < 30,000 - 29,500
- < 30,500 - 30,000
- < 31,000 - 30,500
- < 31,500 - 31,000
- < 32,000 - 31,500
- < 32,500 - 32,000
- < 33,000 - 32,500
- < 33,500 - 33,000
- < 34,000 - 33,500
- < 34,500 - 34,000
- < 35,000 - 34,500
- < 35,500 - 35,000
- < 36,000 - 35,500
- < 36,500 - 36,000
- < 37,000 - 36,500
- < 37,500 - 37,000
- < 38,000 - 37,500
- < 38,500 - 38,000
- < 39,000 - 38,500
- < 39,500 - 39,000
- < 40,000 - 39,500
- < 40,500 - 40,000
- < 41,000 - 40,500
- < 41,500 - 41,000
- < 42,000 - 41,500
- < 42,500 - 42,000
- < 43,000 - 42,500
- < 43,500 - 43,000
- < 44,000 - 43,500
- < 44,500 - 44,000
- < 45,000 - 44,500
- < 45,500 - 45,000
- < 46,000 - 45,500
- < 46,500 - 46,000
- < 47,000 - 46,500
- < 47,500 - 47,000
- < 48,000 - 47,500
- < 48,500 - 48,000
- < 49,000 - 48,500
- < 49,500 - 49,000
- < 50,000 - 49,500
- < 50,500 - 50,000
- < 51,000 - 50,500
- < 51,500 - 51,000
- < 52,000 - 51,500
- < 52,500 - 52,000
- < 53,000 - 52,500
- < 53,500 - 53,000
- < 54,000 - 53,500
- < 54,500 - 54,000
- < 55,000 - 54,500
- < 55,500 - 55,000
- < 56,000 - 55,500
- < 56,500 - 56,000
- < 57,000 - 56,500
- < 57,500 - 57,000
- < 58,000 - 57,500
- < 58,500 - 58,000
- < 59,000 - 58,500
- < 59,500 - 59,000
- < 60,000 - 59,500
- < 60,500 - 60,000
- < 61,000 - 60,500
- < 61,500 - 61,000
- < 62,000 - 61,500
- < 62,500 - 62,000
- < 63,000 - 62,500
- < 63,500 - 63,000
- < 64,000 - 63,500
- < 64,500 - 64,000
- < 65,000 - 64,500
- < 65,500 - 65,000
- < 66,000 - 65,500
- < 66,500 - 66,000
- < 67,000 - 66,500
- < 67,500 - 67,000
- < 68,000 - 67,500
- < 68,500 - 68,000
- < 69,000 - 68,500
- < 69,500 - 69,000
- < 70,000 - 69,500
- < 70,500 - 70,000
- < 71,000 - 70,500
- < 71,500 - 71,000
- < 72,000 - 71,500
- < 72,500 - 72,000
- < 73,000 - 72,500
- < 73,500 - 73,000
- < 74,000 - 73,500
- < 74,500 - 74,000
- < 75,000 - 74,500
- < 75,500 - 75,000
- < 76,000 - 75,500
- < 76,500 - 76,000
- < 77,000 - 76,500
- < 77,500 - 77,000
- < 78,000 - 77,500
- < 78,500 - 78,000
- < 79,000 - 78,500
- < 79,500 - 79,000
- < 80,000 - 79,500
- < 80,500 - 80,000
- < 81,000 - 80,500
- < 81,500 - 81,000
- < 82,000 - 81,500
- < 82,500 - 82,000
- < 83,000 - 82,500
- < 83,500 - 83,000
- < 84,000 - 83,500
- < 84,500 - 84,000
- < 85,000 - 84,500
- < 85,500 - 85,000
- < 86,000 - 85,500
- < 86,500 - 86,000
- < 87,000 - 86,500
- < 87,500 - 87,000
- < 88,000 - 87,500
- < 88,500 - 88,000
- < 89,000 - 88,500
- < 89,500 - 89,000
- < 90,000 - 89,500
- < 90,500 - 90,000
- < 91,000 - 90,500
- < 91,500 - 91,000
- < 92,000 - 91,500
- < 92,500 - 92,000
- < 93,000 - 92,500
- < 93,500 - 93,000
- < 94,000 - 93,500
- < 94,500 - 94,000
- < 95,000 - 94,500
- < 95,500 - 95,000
- < 96,000 - 95,500
- < 96,500 - 96,000
- < 97,000 - 96,500
- < 97,500 - 97,000
- < 98,000 - 97,500
- < 98,500 - 98,000
- < 99,000 - 98,500
- < 99,500 - 99,000
- < 100,000 - 99,500
- < 100,500 - 100,000
- < 101,000 - 100,500
- < 101,500 - 101,000
- < 102,000 - 101,500
- < 102,500 - 102,000
- < 103,000 - 102,500
- < 103,500 - 103,000
- < 104,000 - 103,500
- < 104,500 - 104,000
- < 105,000 - 104,500
- < 105,500 - 105,000
- < 106,000 - 105,500
- < 106,500 - 106,000
- < 107,000 - 106,500
- < 107,500 - 107,000
- < 108,000 - 107,500
- < 108,500 - 108,000
- < 109,000 - 108,500
- < 109,500 - 109,000
- < 110,000 - 109,500
- < 110,500 - 110,000
- < 111,000 - 110,500
- < 111,500 - 111,000
- < 112,000 - 111,500
- < 112,500 - 112,000
- < 113,000 - 112,500
- < 113,500 - 113,000
- < 114,000 - 113,500
- < 114,500 - 114,000
- < 115,000 - 114,500
- < 115,500 - 115,000
- < 116,000 - 115,500
- < 116,500 - 116,000
- < 117,000 - 116,500
- < 117,500 - 117,000
- < 118,000 - 117,500
- < 118,500 - 118,000
- < 119,000 - 118,500
- < 119,500 - 119,000
- < 120,000 - 119,500
- < 120,500 - 120,000
- < 121,000 - 120,500
- < 121,500 - 121,000
- < 122,000 - 121,500
- < 122,500 - 122,000
- < 123,000 - 122,500
- < 123,500 - 123,000
- < 124,000 - 123,500
- < 124,500 - 124,000
- < 125,000 - 124,500
- < 125,500 - 125,000
- < 126,000 - 125,500
- < 126,500 - 126,000
- < 127,000 - 126,500
- < 127,500 - 127,000
- < 128,000 - 127,500
- < 128,500 - 128,000
- < 129,000 - 128,500
- < 129,500 - 129,000
- < 130,000 - 129,500
- < 130,500 - 130,000
- < 131,000 - 130,500
- < 131,500 - 131,000
- < 132,000 - 131,500
- < 132,500 - 132,000
- < 133,000 - 132,500
- < 133,500 - 133,000
- < 134,000 - 133,500
- < 134,500 - 134,000
- < 135,000 - 134,500
- < 135,500 - 135,000
- < 136,000 - 135,500
- < 136,500 - 136,000
- < 137,000 - 136,500
- < 137,500 - 137,000
- < 138,000 - 137,500
- < 138,500 - 138,000
- < 139,000 - 138,500
- < 139,500 - 139,000
- < 140,000 - 139,500
- < 140,500 - 140,000
- < 141,000 - 140,500
- < 141,500 - 141,000
- < 142,000 - 141,500
- < 142,500 - 142,000
- < 143,000 - 142,500
- < 143,500 - 143,000
- < 144,000 - 143,500
- < 144,500 - 144,000
- < 145,000 - 144,500
- < 145,500 - 145,000
- < 146,000 - 145,500
- < 146,500 - 146,000
- < 147,000 - 146,500
- < 147,500 - 147,000
- < 148,000 - 147,500
- < 148,500 - 148,000
- < 149,000 - 148,500
- < 149,500 - 149,000
- < 150,000 - 149,500
- < 150,500 - 150,000
- < 151,000 - 150,500
- < 151,500 - 151,000
- < 152,000 - 151,500
- < 152,500 - 152,000
- < 153,000 - 152,500
- < 153,500 - 153,000
- < 154,000 - 153,500
- < 154,500 - 154,000
- < 155,000 - 154,500
- < 155,500 - 155,000
- < 156,000 - 155,500
- < 156,500 - 1