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7/13/2005

Ms. Liz Tirpak
U.S. Department of State
OES/OA, Room 5805
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Ms. Tirpak

Recently your office submitted an application to the Norwegian government on the behalf of my science program onboard the US Coast Guard icebreaker Healy. In that request for access to the Norwegian EEZ, I indicated that we would be collecting multi-channel seismic reflection data south of the edge of the arctic ice pack. This was a mistake. I would like to correct or amend the application to the Norwegian government to indicate that we will end multi-channel data acquisition when Healy encounters the southern limit of pack ice.

There is no reason for us to collect data beyond the ice edge. This area is already well covered by existing seismic reflection data. Collecting the data, which requires the ship to maintain a reduced speed (3-4 knots), would be a poor use of icebreaker time. The primary focus of our science program and the best use of the Healy are to acquire data within the ice pack. We will terminate multi-channel seismic data acquisition in the vicinity of the ice edge, north of Svalbard.

I appreciate your willingness to forward this correction to the proper authorities in Norway. This correction will simplify Healy's transit through those waters to its' port call in Tromso, Norway.

Sincerely,

Bernard Coakley
co-chief scientist for Healy cruise 05-03

cc: Yngve Kristoffersen, University of Bergen
Dave Forcucci, US Coast Guard
CAPT Daniel Oliver, US Coast Guard
CDR Tom Wojahn, US Coast Guard
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