

# **2002 BCSECCOM 916**

## **Headnote**

Mutual Reliance Review System for Exemptive Relief Applications – relief for a limited partnership from interim financial reporting requirements for the first and third quarter of each financial year – relief terminates if there is a material change in the business affairs of the partnership, unless the Decision Makers are satisfied that the relief should continue

## **Applicable British Columbia Provisions**

*Securities Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 418, s. 91

*Securities Rules*, B.C. Reg 194/97, ss. 144, 149

## **IN THE MATTER OF THE SECURITIES LEGISLATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, ALBERTA, SASKATCHEWAN, ONTARIO, NOVA SCOTIA AND NEWFOUNDLAND**

**AND**

## **IN THE MATTER OF THE MUTUAL RELIANCE REVIEW SYSTEM FOR EXEMPTIVE RELIEF APPLICATIONS**

**AND**

## **IN THE MATTER OF MRF 2002 LIMITED PARTNERSHIP**

## **MRRS DECISION DOCUMENT**

WHEREAS the local securities regulatory authority or regulator (the "Decision Maker") in each of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland (collectively, the "Jurisdictions") has received an application from MRF 2002 Limited Partnership (the "Partnership") for:

1. a decision pursuant to the securities legislation of each of the Jurisdictions (the "Legislation") that the requirements contained in the Legislation to file and send to its securityholders (the "Limited Partners") its interim financial statements for each of the first and third quarters of each of the Partnership's fiscal years (the "First & Third Quarter Interim Financials"), shall not apply to the Partnership; and
2. in Ontario and Saskatchewan only, a decision pursuant to the securities legislation of Ontario and Saskatchewan that the requirements to file and send to the Limited Partners, its:
  - a) annual information form (the "AIF");

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- b) annual management discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations (the "Annual MD&A"); and
- c) interim management discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations (the "Interim MD&A"),

shall not apply to the Partnership.

AND WHEREAS pursuant to the Mutual Reliance Review System for Exemptive Relief Application (the "System), the Ontario Securities Commission is the principal regulator for this application.

AND WHEREAS the Partnership has represented to the Decision Makers that:

1. The Partnership is a limited partnership formed pursuant to the *Limited Partnerships Act* (Ontario) on January 16, 2002.
2. The Partnership was formed to invest in certain common shares ("Flow-Through Shares") of companies involved primarily in oil and gas, mining or renewable energy exploration and development ("Resource Companies").
3. The Partnership will enter into agreements ("Resource Agreements") with Resource Companies and under the terms of each Resource Agreement, the Partnership will subscribe for Flow-Through Shares of the Resource Company and the Resource Company will incur and renounce to the Partnership, in amounts equal to the subscription price of the Flow-Through Shares, expenditures in respect of resource exploration and development which qualify as Canadian exploration expense or as Canadian development expense which may be renounced as Canadian exploration expense to the Partnership.
4. On May 29, 2002, the Decision Makers, together with the securities regulatory authority or regulator for Manitoba, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and the Yukon (in which jurisdictions no legislative requirement exists to file first and third quarter interim financial statements), issued a receipt under the System for the prospectus of the Partnership dated May 28, 2002 (the "Prospectus") relating to an offering of up to 3,000,000 units of the Partnership (the "Partnership Units").
5. The Prospectus contained disclosure that the Partnership intends to apply for an order from the Decision Makers exempting it from the requirements to file and distribute financial statements of the Partnership in respect of the first and third quarters of each fiscal year of the Partnership.

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6. The Partnership Units will not be listed or quoted for trading on any stock exchange or market.
7. At the time of purchase or transfer of Partnership Units, each purchaser or transferee consents to the application by the Partnership for an order from the Decision Makers exempting the Partnership from the requirements to file and distribute financial statements of the Partnership in respect of the first and third quarters of each fiscal year of the Partnership.
8. On or about June 30, 2004, the Partnership will be liquidated and the Limited Partners will receive their pro rata share of the net assets of the Partnership; and it is the current intention of the general partner of the Partnership (the "General Partner") to propose prior to the dissolution that the Partnership enter into an agreement with Middlefield Mutual Funds Limited (the "Mutual Fund"), an open end mutual fund, whereby assets of the Partnership would be exchanged for shares of the Growth Class of the Mutual Fund; and upon dissolution, Limited Partners would then receive their pro rata share of the shares of the Growth Class of the Mutual Fund.
9. Since its formation on January 16, 2002, the Partnership's activities primarily included (i) collecting the subscriptions from the Limited Partners, (ii) investing the available Partnership funds in Flow-Through Shares of Resource Companies, and (iii) incurring expenses to maintain the fund.
10. Unless a material change takes place in the business and affairs of the Partnership, the Limited Partners will obtain adequate financial information concerning the Partnership from the semi-annual financial statements and the annual report containing audited financial statements of the Partnership together with the auditors' report thereon distributed to the Limited Partners and the Prospectus and the semi-annual financial statements provide sufficient background materials and the explanations necessary for a Limited Partner to understand the Partnership's business, its financial position and its future plans, including dissolution on June 30, 2004.
11. Given the limited range of business activities to be conducted by the Partnership and the nature of the investment of the Limited Partners in the Partnership, the provision by the Partnership of the First and Third Quarter Interim Financials, the AIF, the Annual MD&A and the Interim MD&A will not be of significant benefit to the Limited Partners and may impose a material financial burden on the Partnership.

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12. It is disclosed in the Prospectus that the General Partner will apply on behalf of the Partnership for relief from the requirements to send to Limited Partners the First and Third Quarter Interim Financials.

13. Each of the Limited Partners has, by subscribing for the units offered by the Partnership in accordance with the Prospectus, agreed to the irrevocable power of attorney contained in Article XIX of the Amended and Restated Limited Partnership Agreement scheduled to the Prospectus and has thereby consented to the making of this application for the exemption requested herein.

AND WHEREAS under the System, this MRRS Decision Document evidences the decision of each Decision Maker (collectively, the "Decision");

AND WHEREAS each Decision Maker is of the opinion that the test contained in the Legislation that provides the Decision Maker with the jurisdiction to make the Decision has been met;

THE DECISION of the Decision Makers pursuant to the Legislation is that the requirements contained in the Legislation to file and send to the Limited Partners its First & Third Quarter Interim Financials shall not apply to the Partnership provide that this exemption shall terminate upon the occurrence of a material change in the affairs of the Partnership unless the Partnership satisfies the Decision Makers that the exemptions should continue, which satisfaction shall be evidenced in writing.

DATED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2002.

Howard I. Wetston

Robert W. Korthals

THE FURTHER DECISION of the securities regulatory authority or securities regulator in each of Ontario and Saskatchewan is that the requirements contained in the legislation of Ontario and Saskatchewan to file and send to its Limited Partners its AIF, Annual MD&A and Interim MD&A shall not apply to the Partnership provided that this exemption shall terminate upon the occurrence of a material change in the affairs of the Partnership unless the Partnership satisfies the Decision Makers that the exemptions should continue, which satisfaction shall be evidenced in writing.

DATED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2002.

John Hughes