

NS: No drilling planned for sanctuary

By Darrell Cole, Transcontinental Media

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[CALGARY, AB] – The Chignecto Game Sanctuary will not be the site of an exploratory well being drilled sometime this summer by an Alberta company.

Eastrock Resources Ltd. plans to drill the onshore well somewhere in Cumberland or Colchester County, but its president Michael Volcko says it won't be until later this summer before the company divulges where that well will be.

“There will be no drilling within that area,” Volcko says, adding that while his company has exploration rights for property within the sanctuary it has not conducted any additional seismic testing other than that done in 2008.

“We have not done anymore testing in there,” Volcko says. “At this time we have chosen to focus on the eastern section of the block.”

The decision to drill an exploratory well comes following 55 kilometres of seismic testing on its two blocks of land in both Cumberland and Colchester. That program was carried out on schedule, under budget and without incident even though one of the seismic lines went directly through Springhill.

Results from the latest seismic tests as well as those done two years ago indicate the potential for either oil or natural gas reservoirs.

Last fall, Eastrock acquired an exploration permit to explore a block of land from Eatonville in Cumberland County to Economy in Colchester County and north to Glenville in Cumberland County. It also has an exploration agreement for the Springhill area.

The company stirred up a bit of controversy in 2008 when it conducted seismic activities in the game sanctuary. While the permit issued last year gives it exploration rights for that sensitive area, Volcko says his company would meet with interested stakeholders before conducting any exploration in the sanctuary.