

# Grande Energy Awarded Offshore West Coast Basin Permit

Private independent Texan explorer Grande Energy has been awarded an exploration permit largely offshore of the west coast of the South Island.

The PEP 38527 covers 11,800 km<sup>2</sup> off South Westland, between Haast and Franz Josef Glacier plus a narrow strip of adjoining coastal land between the same towns.

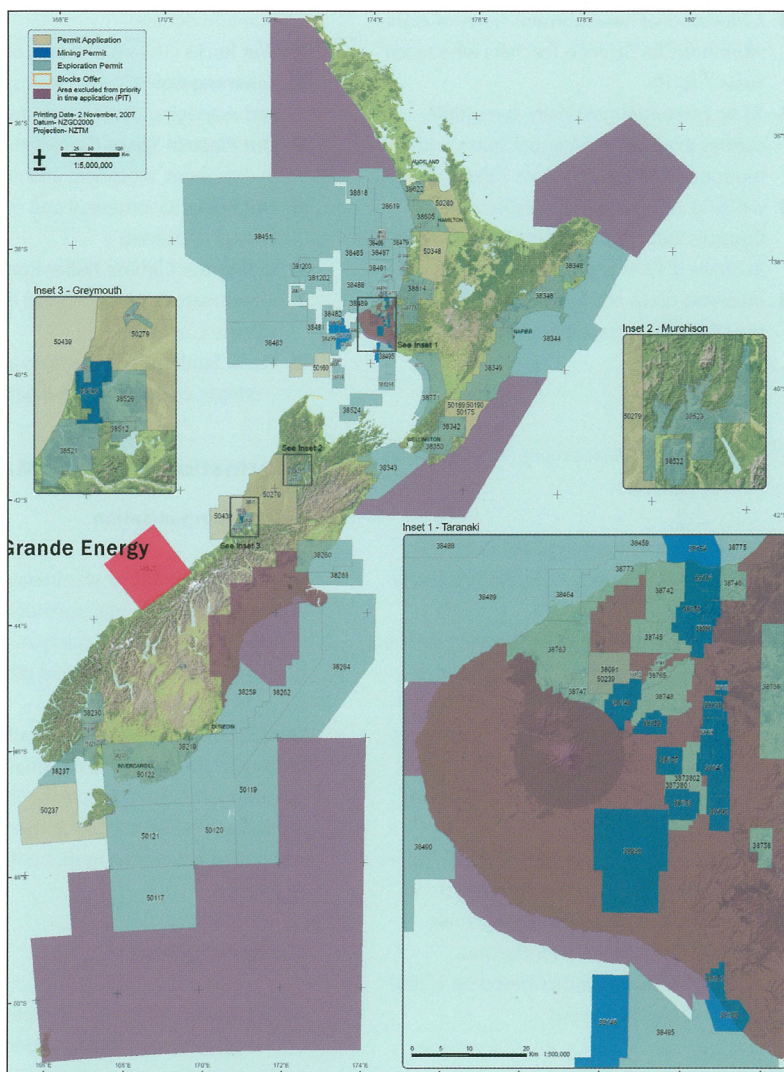
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- Bob Gaudin

Bob Gaudin, President of the Fort Worth-based company said Grande Energy had explored primarily in onshore North America. "It is difficult to find a place as industry friendly as New Zealand with as favourable an economic and political climate", he said.

This was the first offshore prospect in which Grande Energy has been involved, he said. But Grande Energy is working with consultant Mac Beggs of Geosphere in Wellington and Ed Berg who was formerly with Thomasson International Ventures of Denver, which a few years ago held a permit over west coast offshore similar to the Grande permit. Beggs and Berg noted the west coast basins had a lot of similarities to the Taranaki Basin.

Under the work programme Grande Energy intends to acquire a minimum of 525 km of new 2D seismic data in the first two years and carry out a 3D seismic programme and drill an exploration well by the fourth year. ■



Grande Energy's offshore New Zealand acreage.