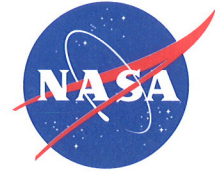


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



Reply to Attn of:

SMD/Earth Science Division

JUN 24 2011

Dr. Diane Campbell
Canadian Ice Service
373 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H3
Canada

Dear Dr. Campbell:

Thank you very much for your May 16, 2011, letter advocating continuation of Ku-band satellite scatterometer measurements in support of operational ice monitoring. Thank you also for the excellent coordination provided by the International Ice Charting Working Group that has led to the production and efficient use by operational agencies of the decadal time series of Arctic sea ice maps based on QuikSCAT measurements.

NASA continues to operate QuikSCAT, even in its non-scanning condition. As you note in your letter, the radar backscatter cross-section measurements are being used as a quantitative transfer standard for the Indian OceanSat-2 Ku-band scatterometer, thus enabling the decadal time series of backscatter measurements and ice presence to be extended into the future.

NASA conducts a bi-annual "senior review" of all of our Earth-observing research missions that are beyond their design life. The review takes into account both the scientific and the operational contributions expected from an extended mission. The operational contributions of QuikSCAT even in its degraded, non-spinning mode were highlighted during the senior review committee's evaluations. This year's senior review is just finishing, with the report containing their recommendations for mission extension to be delivered to the Earth Science Division at the end of June. Based on the material presented to the review committee and preliminary discussions regarding their evaluations, I can assure you that the contributions of QuikSCAT for Arctic ice edge monitoring are well-understood and highly valued.

Thank you again for your kind words of support and for your continued analyses and use of QuikSCAT and other relevant Earth science measurements from satellites.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Weiler".

Edward J. Weiler
Associate Administrator for
Science Mission Directorate

cc:

Science Mission Directorate/C. Gay

- M. Luther

Earth Science Division/M. Freilich

- M. Luce
- D. Halpern

Canadian Ice Service/J. Damski