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Department of Environment

Ministère de l'Environnement

June 26, 2009

Phyllis Beaulieu Manager of Licensing Nunavut Water Board

via Email to: licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org

## **RE: Regulation of Phenols in Wastewater Request for comments**

The Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment (DoE) has received Regulation of Phenols in Wastewater Request for comments from Nunavut Water Board (NWB) on May 29, 2009. The NWB has requested that parties comment on the three (3) questions below.

## 1. Phenols have the potential to adversely affect water in Nunavut;

Phenol and its substitutes are common byproducts of many industrial processes. Under environmental conditions they can persist, depending on temperature and pH in ground water, for a number of weeks. Phenols have found to be toxic to most aquatic organisms even at low concentrations. It also has an adverse effect on the taste and odour of water. Therefore, DOE believes that phenols are adversely affect water in Nunavut.

2. Wastewater potentially containing phenols, that is discharged onto land thirty (30) meters above the high water mark of a water body, be regulated at DCC Distant Early Warning Line remediation projects?

Wastewater potentially containing phenols should continue to be regulated at DCC Distant Early Warning Line remediation projects. DLCU should continue to monitor, treat and remove phenols. Environment Science Group's study has been submitted by the proponent indicates that removing phenol is a very easy process.

DOE believes that if there is any phenol in the wastewater, it should be treated to the accepted level of 0.002mg/L before it is released into the surrounded environment.

3. Should phenols be regulated in general (remediation, industrial, mining, municipal, etc.) through NWB Water Licenses where discharge is to land, thirty meters of more above the normal high water mark of the nearest water body (especially were direct or indirect flow to surface freshwaters is not possible)?





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The phenol should be regulated through NWB Water Licenses where discharge is to land, thirty (30) meters from natural drainage courses, and at least 100 meters from fish-bearing waters, with a maximum allowable limit.

DoE thanks NWB for giving us the opportunity to comment on the Regulation of Phenols in Wastewater. If NWB has any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

## Original signed by

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