



Your file - Votre référence
1BR-CLR1419

May 8, 2017

Our file - Notre référence
IQALUIT-#1145967

Licensing Department
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
GJOA HAVEN, NU, X0B 1J0

Sent via email: licensing@nwb-oen.ca

**Re: Technical Review of Cancellation Application – Remediation of the Contwoyto Lake
Former Weather Station (1BR-CLR1419)**

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the Nunavut Water Board's April 4, 2017 notice of the above mentioned water licence cancellation application. A memorandum is provided for the Nunavut Water Board's consideration. Comments and recommendations have been provided by the Water Resources Division of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada pursuant to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's mandated responsibilities under the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and the *Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Act*.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at 867-975-3877 or email at Amanda.Winegardner@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca for further information.

Sincerely,

Amanda Winegardner
Water Management Specialist
Water Resources Division
Resource Management Directorate
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
P.O. Box 100
IQALUIT, NU X0A 0H0

Encl.

Cc. Ian Parsons, A/Manager of Water Resources – INAC, Nunavut Regional Office (NRO)
Erik Allain, Manager, Field Operations – INAC, NRO

Memorandum

To: Licensing Department, Nunavut Water Board

From: Amanda Winegardner, Water Management Specialist, Water Resources Division,
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Cc: Ian Parsons (NRO), Erik Allain (NRO)

Date: May 8, 2017

Re: Technical Review of Cancellation Application for Licence No. 1BR-CLR1419

Applicant: Land and Contaminated Sites Directorate, INAC
Project: Remediation of Contwoyto Lake Former Weather Station
Region: Kitikmeot

Comments:

A. Background

On April 4, 2017, the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) invited interested parties to review a water licence cancellation application for the Remediation of Contwoyto Lake Former Weather Station (Type B licence 1BR-CLR1419) submitted by Contaminated Sites, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), the Licensee. An extension to the review period was requested by the Water Resources Division of INAC on April 24, 2017. The extension request was granted by the NWB on that same day, with the review period being extended to May 8, 2017. The Licensee is seeking to cancel the licence that authorizes the use of 15 m³ of water per day in addition to the deposit of waste because remediation activities at the site have been completed.

The Contwoyto Lake Weather Station was originally built in 1956 and operated by Pacific Western Airlines until 1978 when Transport Canada took over the site to build a navigational aid station. Transport Canada later abandoned the site and the Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization took over in 1984, using the buildings as an outpost camp. The Lands and Contaminated Sites Directorate of INAC recommended site clean-up in the 1990s and in 2013 a Remedial Action Plan was created to deal with discarded fuel drums, petroleum hydrocarbon contaminated soil and both hazardous and non-hazardous debris. Remediation activities occurred in the summer of 2014, with final demobilization of equipment in 2015. The Licensee submitted a Final Remediation Report to the NWB in 2016.

The Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization requested that the hunting cabin be kept standing and the airstrip was also retained for emergency use. With the submission of the Final Remediation Report, the Licensee has stated that no further remediation work or long-term

monitoring is required for the site.

B. Results of review

On behalf of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's Water Resources Division, the following comments and recommendations are provided:

1. **Long-term monitoring plans**

Source:

- 1) 1BR-CLR1419 Cancellation Application, Section 7: Reason
- 2) Remediation Summary Report- Contwoyto Lake former Weather Station, Nunavut, Section 3.4.3 (Final Remediation Report)
- 3) Remediation Summary Report- Contwoyto Lake former Weather Station, Nunavut, Sections ES11 and 6.0 (Final Remediation Report)
- 4) 1BR-CLR1419 Contwoyto 2016 Annual Report
- 5) 1BR-CLR1419 Inspection Report of July 15, 2015 (Document #2015-KIT025-EP)

Comment: The Licensee has submitted a Final Remediation Report detailing the remediation activities and the results of both baseline and confirmatory sampling that occurred at the site. From this report, the remediation activities appear to have been effective and gone as planned with the exception of work completed in Impact Zone 03, where the excavation needed of petroleum hydrocarbon contaminated soils was greater than anticipated. Additionally, the report noted the difficulty in obtaining samples from monitoring wells due to insufficient water volume. A 2015 Inspection Report filed by an INAC Water Resources Officer also notes concerns regarding a lack of data to demonstrate that there was not migration of hydrocarbons from the unlined landfarm facility. However, the Final Remediation Report contains detailed information regarding the extent of the contamination zone.

The Licensee's 2016 Annual Report stated that no work or monitoring activities occurred in 2016 and the Cancellation Application states that no long-term monitoring is required for this site because all hazardous and non-hazardous materials were removed from the site. INAC's Water Resources Division notes however that Section 6.0 of the Final Remediation Report recommends:

- i) Long-term monitoring to assure INAC's Contaminated Sites that remediation is performing as expected.
- ii) Collection of surface water samples in 2016 at four monitoring locations.
- iii) Inspection of regraded lands in 2016.

Recommendation 1: INAC's Water Resources Division recommends that the Licensee confirm whether long-term monitoring is required at this site and if so, whether a Water Licence will be required for future work.

C. Conclusion

The Water Resources Division of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada recommends that a decision to cancel licence 1BR-CLR1419 be made after the Licensee has confirmed whether there are long-term monitoring requirements as per the recommendations in the Final Remediation Report.