

## **Backgrounder for Teleconference/Workshop on *Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent***

### **Input to the Consultation Process**

From the Territorial and Municipal perspectives we need to identify our concerns, issues and observations by January 31, 2008 for this round of Consultations. As directed by the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee (NCIAC) we would like to engage the following parties in a teleconference/workshop to capture our views in consultation with our Federal Counterparts and other parties of interest:

- Community Government and Services (CGS-GN)
- Department of Environment (DOE-GN)
- Nunavut Association of Municipalities (NAM)
- Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators (NAMA)
- Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC)
- Nunavut Water Board (NWB)
- Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)
- Environment Canada (GoC – EC)

### **Questions to Discuss**

As a guide to our teleconference/workshop, we will be asking ourselves the following questions:

#### Preamble

“...The *Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent* addresses issues related to governance, wastewater facility performance, effluent quality and quantity, and infrastructure needs in a way that provides consistency and clarity to the wastewater sector across Canada while ensuring funding for improved treatment is managed in an equitable and sustainable way. The Strategy seeks to improve the protection of environmental and human health....”

➔ As this will affect all Gas Tax funded projects, are there any new considerations we should plan for?

In Technical Supplement 2 :” .. All new and upgraded wastewater facilities are required to meet the National Performance Standards *immediately...*”

### Key Elements of the Strategy

“...The risk assessment process considers at minimum, the *Canadian Environmental Quality Guidelines* or jurisdictional equivalent to establish site-specific Environmental Quality Objectives for the receiving environment and, subsequently, Effluent Discharge Objectives for the discharge(s)...”

➔ Will there be a Nunavut jurisdictional equivalent?

“...The Strategy sets National Performance Standards for Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD<sub>5</sub>), Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Total Residual Chlorine (TRC)....”

⇒ Can we consistently meet the proposed standards?

“...alternative performance standards for arctic conditions will be proposed within five years....”

⇒ Will we be able to propose alternate standard within 5 years?

⇒ Who will do the required research?

“...All wastewater facilities are required to monitor their effluent discharge in accordance with the requirements outlined in Technical Supplement 2....”

⇒ Do we have the capacity to do this? How best can we do this?

“... List of Potential Substances of Concern for MWW – ..... for ...Facilities...”

⇒ Do our labs test for all of these? If not, how will it be addressed?

“...**Arctic** The term *arctic* is still under discussion by the Development Committee. Considerations to date in defining arctic include number of growing degree days, mean annual near surface ground temperature, temperature and number of ice-free days....”

⇒ What input do we have to this definition? It has been suggested that it should be defined in terms of geographic base

The “...timing and implementation of each element described is based on risk and supported by a funding strategy to be discussed...”

⇒ Is the proposed timing appropriate for Nunavut Municipalities? Can we meet the **Timelines and deliverables of the Canada-wide Strategy** as outlined in Table 1 of the Strategy?