



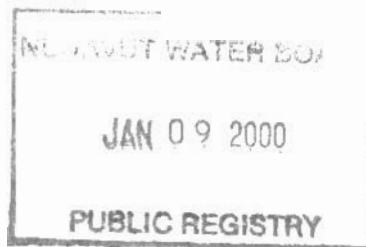
INAC, Nunavut District  
Box 100  
Iqaluit, NU  
X0A 0H0

tel.: (867) 975-4275  
fax.: (867) 979-6445  
Your file    Votre référence

Our file    Notre référence

NWB1BOS9801

December 13, 2000.



Hugh Wilson  
Manager, Environmental Affairs  
Miramar Hope Bay Ltd., Hope Bay Joint Venture  
311 West First Street  
North Vancouver, BC    V7M 1B5

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re: Update on October 18, 2000 reply to Water Licence Inspection Report

Please accept this letter as notification that the Licensee's prompt reply to this summer's Water licence inspection report has been reviewed by the Inspector, who appreciates the merit of the comments and concerns brought forth.

Hence, in order to formulate an adequate acknowledgment, the Inspector has taken upon himself to contact representatives of other implicated agencies. As this further investigation involves the processing of additional information, a thorough document cannot be produced at this time. However, the Licensee can expect the Inspector to provide a suitable response before the end of the month. The Inspector trusts that the slight delay will more than be offset by the knowledge that due consideration is given to Hope Bay Joint Venture's operations.

Sincerely,

Philippe Lavallée  
Water Resources Officer  
INAC, Nunavut District

- c.c.    - Nunavut Water Board, Gjoa Haven  
         - KIA lands, Kugluktuk (Jack Kaniak)  
         - DFO Habitat Management, Iqaluit (Jordan DeGroot)