

NUNAVUT WATER BOARD

Public Hearing for Licence No. 3AM-ARV1016
Renewal - Amendment Application

HEARING

VOLUME 2

Arviat, Nunavut

June 1, 2022

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1 Proceedings taken at John Ollie Complex, Arviat,
 2 Nunavut

3

4 June 1, 2022 Afternoon Session

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6 NUNAVUT WATER BOARD

7 L. Toomasie Chair of Hearing

8 S. Silou Panel Member

9 E. Uniuqsaraq Panel Member

10

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12 K. Kharatyan Director of Technical Services

13 B. Kogvik Director of Board Administration
 14 and Communications

15 R. Dwyer Manager of Licensing

16 A. Kubeisinova Technical Advisor

17 T. Meadows Legal Counsel

18

19 APPLICANT

20

21 HAMLET OF ARVIAT

22 E. Chalmers Municipal Planning Officer

23 M. Lusty Manager Municipal Works

24 A. Kadjuk Director of Community Development

25

26

1 INTERVENORS

2

3 CROWN-INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA

4 A. Keim Regional Program Director

5 V. Okonkwo Senior Environmental

6 Assessment Specialist

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1 (PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 1:19 PM)

2 Opening Remarks

3 THE CHAIR: Good afternoon. My name is
4 Lootie Toomasie. I'm the chairman of Nunavut Water
5 Board, and I'll be chairing -- I'm chairing this public
6 hearing since yesterday. I'm glad that we are able to
7 make it back here from Rankin Inlet.

8 But, anyway, welcome back to Nunavut Water Board
9 hearing for the Hamlet of Arviat water licence renewal
10 application. As we have several members of -- the
11 community members here, let's resume with any members
12 of the public asking a question about the application.
13 Please step up to the microphone and ask your question.
14 Community members, open up for you. Thank you. Go
15 ahead.

16 Teresa, go ahead.

17 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18 So maybe just a reminder of kind of what the
19 application is that the Water Board is considering
20 right now. It's the municipal application from the
21 Hamlet of Arviat, and it applies to the sewage
22 treatment plant. It applies to -- or sewage treatment
23 generally. It applies to the drinking water reservoir,
24 and it applies to the landfill or where garbage --
25 municipal garbage is placed.

26 So if you have any questions about the

1 application -- the Applicant is the Government of
2 Nunavut, Community and Government Services, in the
3 Hamlet of Arviat. So if you have any questions about
4 the application or questions for the Board with respect
5 to the application and this process, please feel free
6 to step up to the microphone right there.

7 And if we can get you to just state your name for
8 the record and then ask your questions, we can direct
9 it to any of the people that are here or -- the people
10 on Zoom are from Environment and Climate Change Canada
11 or Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
12 Canada. So if you have any questions, please feel free
13 to step up to the mic and ask right now.

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

16 Applicant, you may want to do some briefing a bit.

17 MR. CHALMERS: Elan Chalmers, GN-CGS.

18 So the application includes a new sewage lagoon
19 because the current one is quite small, and it needs to
20 be emergency pumped out each spring, and it's
21 overtopping visibly.

22 So we have requested the ability to construct a
23 new larger lagoon to support the community for the next
24 20 years based on the population projections. This
25 renewal is also encompassing the fact that a new raw
26 water reservoir was constructed.

1 So we're requesting to withdraw the amount of
2 water that -- the amount that the cells can currently
3 hold because currently it's not compliant with the
4 amount of water that had been in the previous licence.

5 So those are the primary pieces of infrastructure
6 that are part of this application. Thank you.

7 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Applicant.

8 If the public have any questions or comments
9 related to the application that have been filed here by
10 the community government services and the Hamlet of
11 Arviat, you may -- you are free to take a microphone
12 and state your name.

13 Questions/Comments from the Community

14 MS. CURLEY: Hi.

15 THE CHAIR: There. Yeah. Okay. You got
16 it.

17 MS. CURLEY: Hi. This is Angie Curley.

18 I have a question regarding the application from
19 the hamlet to the Water Board. It's a common question.
20 Did hamlet had to pay for the Water Board licence?
21 Thank you.

22 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

23 Water Board Staff.

24 MR. KHARATYAN: Karen Kharatyan, Water Board.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26 The application fee, which is \$30, is paid by any

1 water licence application in the territory. However,
2 the hamlet doesn't pay for water use or right to use
3 water. Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

5 Any more questions or comments related to
6 application?

7 MS. IRKOK-SULUK: I'm sorry. I'm one of the
8 interpreters, but can I ask a question? You know
9 that -- the new reservoir, there's a big -- a big pile
10 of unused mud or gravel that was used to dig out the
11 new reservoir. What's going to happen to it? Can't it
12 be used for anything? Because it's just a big eyesore,
13 and it's causing problems in the winter and springtime.
14 A big pile of snow gathers up, and it covers our
15 trail -- a road going up the road. It's becoming a
16 problem. Thank you.

17 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Qujannamiik.

18 Applicant, you may want to answer questions.

19 MS. LUSTY: Megan Lusty with Community
20 Government Services. Thank you for the question.
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22 So the reservoir project has been completed and
23 was fulfilled to the entire scope of the construction
24 project, but that's definitely something that we can
25 look into if it's impacting the access to the trails in
26 the wintertime due to the snow drifting and if there's

1 anything that can be done to remove some of that
2 material. But it's not currently scheduled to be
3 removed right now, but it's something that we can look
4 into for sure.

5 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

6 MS. SULUK: Hi. Joy Suluk. I'd just like
7 to ask the -- to which -- the lagoon and the garbage
8 disposal area, is this expansion going to need new
9 grounds, new location? Because when they chose the --
10 the current location, that area used to be abundant of
11 big apples or -- there used to be -- they -- it was
12 ruined.

13 That's where we used to pick cloudberries. That
14 was the cloudberry area. Like, you have strawberry
15 farms, that was our cloudberry area, and if there's
16 going to be relocating of the project, can you point
17 out where it's going to be? Is it going to be just an
18 expansion, or are you going to look at -- are you
19 looking at other locations to build the lagoon and the
20 garbage area? Thank you.

21 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Applicant, go
22 ahead.

23 MR. CHALMERS: Elan Chalmers, GN-CGS. Thank
24 you for your question.

25 It's going to be an expansion at the current area.
26 So that area is already contaminated, unfortunately, so

1 the idea was to just keep it within that area, not to
2 contaminate any more land, and council decided and
3 approved that location to move forward. Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Applicant.

5 Any more questions or comments?

6 MR. SULUK: Welcome back. My question
7 this time is to sewage lagoon. As I mentioned
8 yesterday, it's close to the shoreline and the tailing.
9 It's not -- and the tailing -- you can see the tailing
10 through the shore. It affects all around the shoreline
11 very much.

12 And now, today, you can see that all along the
13 shoreline is all seaweeds going up all along the shore.
14 It never used to be like that. It could've been -- it
15 could be part of the uplifting of the -- the soil.
16 It's getting shallow all around the area.

17 In summertime, it used to be we would have a
18 net -- a fishing net. We have seal and beluga coming
19 through the -- close to the shore on high tide. Last
20 summer I noticed that far -- not far from the shore,
21 even on a high tide, it was a murky water much further
22 up. So the tailing must -- must have all -- go out way
23 out further out into the sea.

24 So I think that's a sign of a sewage lagoon too
25 close to the shoreline where we fish and hunt seal and
26 beluga. So it can be a concern to maybe a health

1 hazard if it affects wildlife and -- or seal, fish, and
2 beluga. That is all the questions I have.

3 The area is really clean, and it was really deep,
4 but as the environment has been changing, there used to
5 be abundant fish, but now there is not fish and beluga.
6 And also in the summertime, the ocean used to be very
7 clean, maybe from the sewage lagoon. So we just have
8 to decide the actual location of the new lagoon because
9 it might be contaminated to the body. Thank you.

10 THE CHAIR: Any more questions?

11 Oh, sorry. Yeah. Applicant, go ahead. Do you
12 want to reply to questions?

13 MR. CHALMERS: Elan Chalmers, GN-CGS. Thank
14 you for your comment.

15 So it's up to municipal council to decide the
16 site, and they have decided that the current site will
17 be where the lagoon expansion will take place.
18 Fortunately, the new lagoon will have enhanced
19 treatment compared to what's there now. So you won't
20 be seeing flow throughout the spring. It will be later
21 in summer when most of the organic materials will be
22 taken out by the vegetation. So it will be green there
23 for sure. Lots of growth.

24 But, yeah, thank you for your comment.

25 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

26 Any more questions?

1 THE WITNESS: Peter Arliaq.

2 I don't have my hearing aid. When I hear somebody
3 talking behind a piece of cloth like her, it's hard to
4 understand.

5 I'm hearing the concern about the waste that will
6 be seeping out, which, whoever make the lagoon, try to
7 make it easier to filter out the dirt that might be
8 contained in the water. I hear Luke's concern about
9 sea mammal not being around anymore.

10 And also when you think about the -- the shoreline
11 where the waste will be seeping out, we are concerned
12 about beluga fishing, whatever is in the water, but at
13 the same time, if you try to get away from shoreline
14 and move it on to the land site, we are going to say
15 again that we have a concern about birds or whatever is
16 walking on -- on the ground. So I hope the Water Board
17 will think hard which side they can really find a good
18 place for us to build the lagoon again.

19 Right now, as we can see, our lagoons are getting
20 too small. The springtime came in time to slow down
21 the overfilling of the lagoon itself, and the town is
22 getting bigger, and the lagoons are going to get
23 smaller every year.

24 And we have a water reservoir, which we have now
25 three, and lagoons we have two. But the other one, the
26 first one right now, is not being used. And the new

1 one is one that had been overflowing, the one we are
2 using right now.

3 When we are got -- the two sides about concern
4 about sea mammals and land animals, those two have to
5 be looked after carefully by you guys. I just want
6 to -- to bring that out before you walked out of here,
7 and please take your mask off so I can hear better. It
8 sounds like you're -- you have a muffler. Thank you.
9 Matna.

10 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

11 Karen, go ahead.

12 MR. KHARATYAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Karen
13 Kharatyan from Water Board.

14 I would like to just clarify that Water Board
15 licence states some limit for different parameters or
16 potential contaminants that are in the -- that may be
17 seeping from sewage lagoon to the environment.
18 However, the Board is not really dictating the hamlet
19 or GN-CGS that acts on behalf of hamlet about the
20 location of infrastructure. They know much better than
21 Water Board.

22 Water Board staff generally doesn't even go to
23 site to look when we look at the application, licence
24 applications. We don't visit the sites. So it's up to
25 hamlet through its hamlet council and working together
26 with Government of Nunavut, Community and Government

1 Services, to select the right location for their
2 infrastructure. Thank you.

3 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Teresa -- Karen.

4 Maybe we can come up with the map that the site is
5 showing so that we can see it on the screen.

6 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
7 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.

8 Elan, what side is the -- is the picture? And
9 then we can share it with -- on the screen for
10 everyone.

11 MR. CHALMERS: Elan Chalmers, GN-CGS.

12 So it's on Slide 5. I also have an engineer
13 drawing of where the lagoon will be, but it'll just
14 take me a moment to pull up if you don't mind giving me
15 a moment. Thank you.

16 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Go ahead.

17 MR. CHALMERS: Yeah. Perhaps it'll just be
18 easier to use this so I don't delay anyone.

19 But essentially where the current lagoon is -- I
20 don't know if I -- so that will continue to be used,
21 but it will be upgraded and lined to contain the waste
22 so it won't seep out the way that it does now. And
23 then in the space beside it, a second cell will be
24 constructed here.

25 And then for the old lagoon cells here, the plan
26 is to repurpose them to expand the solid waste site so

1 that there is more space. So we'll have more
2 information about that in a few months once we confirm
3 that they can be reused, but that's the plan as it
4 stands out. So it'll be -- the cell will be a bit
5 larger, and then this area here will be the second
6 cell.

7 So it'll be constructed in phases so you can
8 continue to deposit waste in that area, and they'll use
9 the same wetland area. So there will be no additional
10 land that's contaminated. Thank you.

11 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

12 Any further questions or comments?

13 Teresa?

14 Oh, there's another question.

15 MS. SULUK: Hi. I see that you have
16 sampling programs for both the water reservoir and the
17 sewage lagoon. How far -- when you do the sampling for
18 the sewage lagoon, how far do you get away from it?
19 How far do you measure?

20 Because a lot of the vegetation that's growing
21 around that area is new. It's -- the vegetation that
22 grows on waste is growing -- going further down --
23 further down south. Like, do you just take samples
24 just around the lagoon or the whole area?

25 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

26 Applicant, go ahead.

1 MR. CHALMERS: Elan Chalmers, GN-CGS.

2 Would you be able to pull up that Slide 5 again,
3 please?

4 So to answer your question, we take it at the very
5 end of all that vegetation at the shoreline there. So
6 that green area is part of the treatment process. So
7 the lagoon holds the sewage that let's the settles --
8 the solids settle to the bottom, and the beginning of
9 the biodegradation starts happening in the summertime.

10 And then towards the end of the summer, you pump
11 it out slowly into that vegetation area so the natural
12 degradation can occur of the organic matter, and that's
13 why you see the plant growth, because the plants are
14 feeding from the organics.

15 And then all the way at the end of that area
16 before it enters into the marine area, that's where we
17 sample to see how well the treatment has progressed as
18 it moves from the lagoon to the wetland treatment area
19 and to the final discharge point.

20 And so there's limits to what the parameters can
21 be at that point that are set and -- in the licence
22 that the Nunavut Water Board will issue, and so the new
23 facility needs to meet those to demonstrate that it's
24 treating the sewage properly.

25 So it's just -- it'll be around this area here,
26 the sampling point, and it will also be sampling the

1 effluent as it comes out of the lagoon to see how the
2 treatment has progressed at that point as well as at
3 the end. Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

5 Is there any more questions?

6 Teresa, do you want to take the floor for a
7 minute?

8 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
9 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.

10 So, Mr. Chair, if there are no further questions
11 from the community, the next item on the agenda where
12 we left off last night was with respect to the closing
13 remarks for the Nunavut Water Board.

14 So the Nunavut Water Board Chair will kind of
15 advise everybody here about the next steps in the
16 regulatory process and in the Water Board's process.
17 But if community members continue to have questions
18 even after the public hearing is closed, we -- the
19 Nunavut Water Board has information and community and
20 government services have information with respect to
21 the application that's at that table.

22 So please feel free to take that information, and
23 if you have questions, follow up with the Nunavut Water
24 Board even after this time if you -- if you have any
25 additional questions that come to you afterwards.

26 So, Mr. Chair, I also note that if anybody -- if

1 anybody has any questions that they would like to
2 direct -- they have directed them now to Community and
3 Government Services, but we also have Environment and
4 Climate Change Canada on our Zoom link, and we also
5 have Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
6 Canada, and they are also on the Zoom link.

7 And it's my understanding that possibly a Panel
8 member also might have a follow-up question from
9 yesterday from the technical sessions that she would
10 like to ask as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

12 MS. SILOU: Hello. This is Sarah Silou,
13 Panel.

14 Yesterday I already asked Karen and Teresa, and
15 they explained some, and afterwards I still get more
16 questions in my head. Yesterday I did not know how to
17 pose the question, but after talking with Karen and
18 Teresa, I sort of get an idea. It's concerning that
19 shredded metal.

20 I didn't quite understand where you were putting
21 it. I was thinking that you were putting it into
22 the -- on sewage, but then when I read it, there's
23 solid waste. It shows on the map what I was -- I guess
24 I didn't quite understand what solid waste was. I
25 guess that's, like, garbage.

26 So the shredded metal is being put in garbage or

1 putting it in lagoon? And is there a garbage metal
2 shredder, I mean, like you see on -- you've seen how
3 trucks get grounded, but I don't know what kind of --
4 is it under, like, the ground where you put the metal
5 or on top of the sewage or on top of the garbage
6 itself? Like, solid -- I guess you call it solid
7 garbage, what we call caught in garbage.

8 It's just for clarification to understand -- to be
9 able to understand what the procedure is. Thank you.

10 And thank you, Mr. Chair, Teresa.

11 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

12 So, Applicant, do you want to reply to that?

13 MR. CHALMERS: Elan Chalmers, GN-CGS. Thank
14 you for the question.

15 Yeah. So solid waste is a fancy word for garbage.
16 So yeah. So basically what -- so in the south, they
17 pile their garbage, and they would usually cover it
18 with granular material, but that's something that's
19 kind of difficult to come by up here because it needs
20 to be -- it needs to come from quarries, and there's
21 not always a surplus of that.

22 So what the hamlet did was purchase a metal
23 shredder, shred all the old cars that were taking up a
24 lot of space at the metal site, and then used that as a
25 cover material for the garbage. So it prevents all the
26 waste from blowing away or the wildlife from coming

1 into it.

2 But what it also did was compact it all the way
3 down, so it actually provided a lot more space and
4 capacity at the landfill. So it's going to be useful
5 for longer, which is a very clever idea.

6 Does that kind of answer the question?

7 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

8 Sarah?

9 MS. SILOU: Yes. I had a following
10 question, and when you asked me a question, I forgot my
11 question, but, yes, basically that.

12 So on the map, it showed solid waste and -- so the
13 new -- the lagoon itself is a sewage, right, sewage
14 lagoon? So the wastes are the way they are going to
15 be, the way they are continuing to be. It's the waste,
16 the sewage waste, that -- what you are dealing with, is
17 it? You are dealing -- you are changing -- or I
18 understand you're putting a berm. It's going to be,
19 like, a berm almost to keep it from going into the
20 water or not? Like, the land. You know, how the land
21 is raised, and they call it a berm or something. Is
22 that what's going to happen with the new lagoon?

23 Thank you.

24 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

25 Applicant, go ahead.

26 MR. CHALMERS: Elan Chalmers, GN-CGS.

1 Yeah. I should also mention the dump is right
2 beside the sewage lagoon, so that might've been
3 confusing too. The metal waste is getting put in
4 there, and then you've got the lagoon right beside.

5 But -- so for the lagoon, yeah, so it's bermed all
6 the way around, and they dig down. And especially with
7 the old lagoon, they're going to dig down, remove all
8 the organics that have kind of settled there because
9 that's not a lined lagoon, and then they will put a
10 liner in so none of the sewage can get out unless
11 you're pumping it out.

12 And they'll also put a piping system down there to
13 capture any potential leaks, but -- yeah. So
14 everything will be completely bermed. So nothing
15 should be -- if it's operating properly and as
16 designed, nothing should be leaving the perimeter of
17 that -- those berms all the way around. Thank you.

18 MS. SILOU: Thank you.

19 And thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you very much.

20 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you.

21 Qujannamiik.

22 Any further questions? Peter, go ahead.

23 MR. ARLIAQ: Do you understand, Silou? You
24 seem to have two questions about the sewage and the
25 metal. A question for Silou: You were asking about
26 the sewage lagoon. There's a machine for shredding

1 metals. When the metals are shredded, they're put into
2 disposal. There's two locations, sewage lagoon and
3 landfill.

4 The metal that has been shredded is closer to
5 Arviat where the old machines were, and they are piled
6 up together, and that's where they are. So I don't
7 know which question you were asking about. It seems
8 like you were asking two, and they're a separate one.
9 Lagoon is farther. Shredder is closer. So you were
10 talking about two places.

11 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Peter.

12 So I think we will come up with questions or
13 comments in answering the questions. So we take at
14 least five-minute break before getting into the agenda.

15 Teresa, do you want to take the floor for a
16 minute? Okay. Go ahead.

17 MR. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
18 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.

19 So, Mr. Chair, if there are no further questions,
20 when we come back after the break, Mr. Chair will give
21 the closing remarks on behalf of the Board to advise
22 everybody what happens next in the regulatory process,
23 and then we will conclude the hearing.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you.

26 Yeah. Okay. We'll come back, let's say, 3:00.

1 Yeah. Yeah. 3:00.

2 (ADJOURNMENT)

3 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you for having
4 patience here with us with having a break. So I'll do
5 my closing remarks now.

6 Closing Remarks

7 THE CHAIR: As we bring this public
8 hearing to a close, on behalf of the Board and my
9 fellow Panel members, I would like to thank all the
10 parties who contributed to making this public hearing
11 and community session a success, especially the
12 Applicant, the Hamlet of Arviat and its representative,
13 Government of Nunavut, Community Government Services;
14 intervenors; Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
15 Affairs; and Environment Climate Change Canada; and the
16 community members; NWB staff and legal counsel;
17 interpreters, Ben Kogvik, Bobby Suluk, and Angeline
18 Irkok-Suluk; court reporter, Andres Vidal; audio
19 facilitator, Chris Coomber; and all the community
20 members and Elders for their valued participation in
21 this hearing.

22 Thanks to all -- also to the caterers and the
23 Hamlet of Arviat for their outstanding hospitality and
24 their patience with the Board.

25 As we are at the end of the hearing, I will
26 come up -- I will have -- I will make some comments to

1 let parties know that -- what happens next for the
2 renewal-amendment application.

3 The Board will now close the public hearing. What
4 this means is that all evidence with regards to this
5 renewal-amendment application is now before the Board,
6 and no further information will be considered by the
7 Panel before they make their decision about the
8 renewal-amendment application.

9 Now that the record is closed, the Board will
10 remit the file to the Panel to decide whether or not to
11 renew or replace this expired licence and grant the
12 amendments as requested by the Hamlet of Arviat.

13 Within 30 days to 45 days after the public hearing
14 record closes, the NWB will issue its record of
15 proceeding and decision to the Minister of Northern
16 Affairs. If the Board's decision is to grant the
17 renewal-amendment application, a draft of the renewed
18 and amended Type "A" water licence would be attached to
19 the Board decision for the Minister's approval.

20 That concludes the public hearing comments of the
21 Nunavut Water Board's consideration of Hamlet of
22 Arviat's application to renew and amend their expired
23 Water Licence Number 3AM-ARV1016.

24 The Board and I wish you all a good afternoon, and
25 safe travels returning home to all the visitors to
26 Arviat. Let's have a closing prayer.

1 Closing Prayer

2

3 PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED

4

5 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT:

6

7 I, Andres Vidal, certify that the foregoing pages
8 are a complete and accurate transcript of the
9 proceedings taken down by me in shorthand and
10 transcribed from my shorthand notes to the best of my
11 skill and ability.

12 Dated at the City of St. Albert, Province of
13 Alberta, this 22nd day of June 2022.

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18 A. Vidal, CSR(A), RMR

19 Official Court Reporter

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1	acts 98:19	anymore 97:9	based 91:24	C
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