Atuat Shouldice
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
Kivalliq Regional Office
Ikingutigiit Center Suite 1, PO Box 129
Rankin Inlet, NU X0C 0G0

April 23, 2026

RE: Arviat Sewage Lagoon Emergency Decant, Water Licence No. 3AM-ARV2232

Dear Atuat,

As per Part E, Item 4 of the Arviat Water Licence No. 3AM-ARV2232, this is notification of plans to discharge sewage from the one active lagoon cell. An emergency decant of the sewage lagoon is needed to maintain the required 1-metre freeboard (minimum freeboard as per Part E, Item 3) and protect berm stability. An emergency decant has taken place each spring since 2018.

The sewage lagoon is designed with an exfiltration berm on the south side that releases effluent once the berm thaws over the course of the summer. Until the summer thaw, sewage is required to be manually pumped out in order to maintain the freeboard.

The decant is planned to begin on April 27, 2026, from 08:00 to 17:00 each day for 2 weeks. It will be monitored daily, and updates will be provided as necessary. An image of the lagoon as of April 22, 2026, can be seen on the next page. As snow melt has yet to begin, samples cannot be taken during the decant.

The Government of Nunavut, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut has identified that the Municipality of Arviat sewage lagoon is undersized. Details of the project and upgrades to expand the Sewage Treatment Facility can be found in the 2025 Annual Report.

Figure 1: Arviat Sewage Lagoon Cell (April 22, 2026)

As temperatures remain below freezing, it is anticipated that effluent will freeze upon dispersion and be gradually released in the spring as the wetland thaws. The passive exfiltration berm is also expected to continue releasing effluent once the snow thaw is complete.

Sampling cannot be conducted until snowmelt has occurred; however, once conditions permit, samples will be collected monthly, as required, to allow for comparison with the effluent criteria specified in Part I, Item 4 of the municipal water licence.

Your prompt response to this letter is appreciated. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,

Brian Jr Aglukark
Municipal Works Technician
Government of Nunavut
Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut
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CC: John Hussey, Senior Administrative Officer, Municipality of Arviat
Daniel Kablutsiak, Director of Public Works, Municipality of Arviat
NWB Licencing Department
Madeline Cole, Acting Manager, Municipal Works Division, GN-TIN
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Kivalliq Water Samples