



ᓄᓇᑭᓪ ᐃᓕᓕᓂᓪᓃᓪ ᑲᓂᓕᓂᓪᓃᓪ
NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

File: 3AM-GRA1015

October 6, 2014

Joe Acorn
Stantec Consulting Ltd.
5021-49 Street
Yellowknife, NWT X1A 2N4

Joe.Acorn@stantec.com

**Subject: Water Licence No. 3AM-GRA1015 “Hamlet of Rankin Inlet, Nunavut”,
Government of Nunavut Department of Community and Government Services;
Requested Extension to Closing of the Hearing Record**

Dear Mr. Acorn:

Thank you for your email dated October 1, 2014 in which you requested on behalf of the Applicant, the Government of Nunavut – Community and Government Services (GN-CGS), that the Rankin Inlet Panel keep the Record open beyond October 3, 2014 in order to allow the Applicant more time to provide a response to the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) presentation at the Public Hearing on September 25, 2014. As was indicated at the Public Hearing, the Panel would not begin deliberations until the Hearing Record is closed and as such granting this request will result in a further delay in the Panel’s deliberations, decision-making and reporting to the Minister.

In addition, having reviewed the Hearing Record to date, the Board’s Technical Staff has identified a significant gap in the evidence on this Amendment Application. Number three on the list of commitments given by the Applicant at the Technical Meeting/Pre-Hearing Conference (TM/PHC) in January, 2014 states that the Applicant was:

To provide additional information on water chemistry within Lower Landing Lake and Char River to determine whether or not it is substantially different from Nipissar Lake, outlining any potential impacts water transfers will have on water quality of the source and discharge water-bodies. This information is to be provided by February 7, 2014.

The Board notes that the Applicant did not find existing data that could provide current water chemistry information in accordance with the commitment, but had indicated in an update that the required sampling would be undertaken in July 2014. On this basis, the Board expected that the GN-CGS would be able to meet this commitment by providing the results of this sampling at

the Public Hearing in September. However, at the Public Hearing, the only submission was that water chemistry testing would be done “in the future”. The Board notes that there was evidence from members of the community of Rankin Inlet (at the TM/ PHC in January and again at the Public Hearing in September) that there may be fuel contamination in Lower Landing Lake from float planes that land and take off from the lake and possibly fuel drums that may have been deposited in the lake.

This evidence of possible fuel contamination raises a potentially significant issue given that the Application proposes the direct transfer of water flowing out of Lower Landing Lake into Nipissar Lake, the community water source for Rankin Inlet. In the absence of water chemistry information that can be considered by the Board to assess whether there is a risk that contaminants in Lower Landing Lake could be transferred into Nipissar Lake, the Board is unable to determine the suitability of the transfer requested in the Amendment Application.

On October 3, 2014 the Panel responsible for this Amendment Application considered both the Applicant’s request to keep the Record open to respond to the DFO presentation, as well as the evidentiary gap concerning the water chemistry data identified by the Board’s technical staff. On this basis, the Panel has determined to grant your request to keep the Record open to respond to the DFO presentation but also to allow the Applicant to present the missing water chemistry information that has been outstanding since February. Please advise the Board on or before **October 10, 2014** as to when the Applicant will be in a position to supply both the outstanding water chemistry information and the response to the DFO presentation.

The Panel has also determined that following receipt of the water chemistry data, the Interveners will be given 14 days to review the water chemistry information and, if the Interveners consider it necessary, to provide further written submissions to the Panel. Additionally, the Panel has determined that Environment Canada (who has specific expertise in this area and had previously been invited to provide commentary and input on this Amendment Application) will also be asked for comment during the same time period given to the other Interveners.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Board’s Executive Director, Damien Côté (867) 360-6338 or damien.cote@nwb-oen.ca, at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Kabloona', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas Kabloona
Chairperson

cc: Distribution List –Kivalliq