



Water Resources Division
Nunavut Regional Office
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Your File: 3AM-GRA
Our File:
CIDM's #: 374174

December 15, 2009

Phyllis Beaulieu
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU, X0A 1J0

**Re: Completeness check for a New Type 'A' Water Licence, Rankin Inlet,
3AM-GRA----**

Please be advised that Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has completed a completeness review of the water licence application for the Water Supply Facilities for the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet submitted by the Government of Nunavut, Department of Community and Government Services (Applicant). See attached Technical Review Memo for your consideration in this review.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments. I can be reached at (867) 975-4568 or by email at Ian.Rumbolt@inac-ainc.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Ian Rumbolt
Regional Coordinator



Technical Review Memo

To: Phyllis Beaulieu – Manager of Licensing, Nunavut Water Board

From: Ian Rumbolt – Regional Coordinator, Indian & Northern Affairs Canada

Re: **Completeness check for a New Type ‘A’ Water Licence, Rankin Inlet, 3AM-GRA----**

Background

On March 24, 2009 the Government of Nunavut, Department of Community and Government Services (GN-CG&S or Applicant) applied for a renewal of the expired licence (3BM-GRA0207) for the water use and sewage disposal facilities.

On July 16th, 2009 the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) completed an assessment of the application and requested the Applicant provide additional information. The NWB also identified that the application qualifies as a Type ‘A’ licence and as a result would necessitate a Public Hearing.

On October 6 and 7 the NWB received the requested information. However, the NWB responded to the Applicant requesting additional information related to potential drawdown of Nipisar Lake. GN-CG&S responded by requesting the Board move forward with the renewal process and proposed that future studies related to the drawdown of Nipisar Lake would be provided once they have been completed.

The Nunavut Water Board is requesting that all interested parties review the application provided by GN-CG&S for completeness, and more specifically the potential for draw down of Nipisar Lake.

Comments/Recommendations:

Concerns were noted in the NWBs original application assessment that not enough information was provided with respect to hydrology (water quantities mainly recharge & drawdown) in Nipisar Lake.

1) Under the NWB’s report “Assessment of Administrative Compliance: Municipal Water Licence for the GN-CGS Administered Rankin Inlet Water & Sewage Disposal Facilities” under PART C -WATER USE, it was noted:

Maximum water use under current licence is 400,000 m³/year



- 2003 Annual Report identifies 451,949 m³ /year of water drawn from the source;
- 2008 Annual Report identifies a daily use rate of 2,108 m³ or 769,237 m³ /per year. Sampling taken during the month of July and may not be representative of the whole year.

It is apparent that this is a substantial increase in Water Use over a 5 year period. It was also noted in the Operational and Maintenance (O&M) Plan Water Supply Facility Report that "...the total recharge to the lake is approximately 314,000 m³ per year."

Due to the above noted substantial increase in water use, and significant concern of the sustainability of the total recharge (314,000 m³ / year) to the lake to support the proposed water use (850,000 m³ / year), the Applicant must provide the appropriate required studies to determine impacts that the proposed water use will have on Nipisar Lake prior to the consideration of the new water licence application.

2) In the Water Licence Application Supplementary Questionnaire, Page 11, section 7 - Quantity of Water Involved, Nuna Burnside Engineering and Environmental made the following recommendation ***"The lake has been designated as a reservoir and is off limits to recreational activities. This considered the water takings should not have a significant impact to the environment. The Government of Nunavut and the Hamlet should identify an alternative water supply that they can pump into the reservoir during the summer months to maintain the water levels in the lake in the future"***

To our knowledge this has not been completed. INAC recommends that this information be a provided with the appropriate studies as recommended above, prior to the consideration of the new water licence.