



Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development Canada

Affaires autochtones et
Développement du Nord Canada

Executive Summary

Technical Review
Amendment Application #1

Water Licence #3AM-GRA1015
Hamlet of Rankin Inlet
Kivalliq Region

December 19, 2013

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (the Department) is an interested party in the Nunavut Water Board's review of the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet's application to amend its Type 'A' Water Licence for seasonal replenishment of Nipissar Lake.

Pursuant to federal legislation, the Department is tasked with co-managing Nunavut's freshwater resources with the Nunavut Water Board. The amendment is a result of the drawdown of Nipissar Lake (Rankin Inlet's water supply) due to increased water use or through leaks in the Hamlet's water lines or a combination of both.

After careful review, the Department has a few concerns with respect to the amendment application. These concerns revolve primarily around the sustainability of Char River being an adequate resupply/replenishment alternative for the replenishment of Nipissar Lake and the possibility of impacts to the surrounding watershed and environment. The Proponent had previously indicated that minimal information has been developed evaluating the impacts of water withdrawal on Lower Landing Lake and its downstream environments. In order to properly address these concerns, the department has outlined four specific recommendations that may help avoid or eliminate potential impacts on water withdrawal from Char River. Listed below are the four specific recommendations:

- 1) AANDC recommends describing natural and seasonal fluctuations, variability and sources of variability in flow rates in Char River to demonstrate the viability of the source.
- 2) AANDC, at this time would like to advise the proponent that there is a fish habitat compensation project that is on-going directly downstream of the proposed water withdrawal area. AANDC recommends that the proponent undertake a water balance/flow study of Char River to provide confidence that there will be no negative impacts on the watershed and the fish habitat compensation area.
- 3) AANDC recommends that the proponent provide additional information on water chemistry within Lower Landing Lake and Char River and whether or not it is substantially different from Nipissar Lake, outlining any potential impacts water transfers will have on water quality in the source and discharge waterbodies.
- 4) AANDC recommends that the proponent include or undertake an assessment of alternative waterbodies in the event that the location and /or waterbody is inadequate for replenishment of Nipissar Lake and include rationale for choosing Lower Landing Lake.

The department has described these concerns along with recommendations in more detail in its technical review memorandum to the Nunavut Water Board

The department would like these concerns addressed in the upcoming Technical Meeting/Pre-Hearing Conference slated for January 14-15, 2014 in Rankin Inlet.