



Executive Summary

Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference
Amendment Application #1

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

January 6, 2014

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Water Licence #3AM-GRA1015, Amendment Application #1

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 those four specific recommendations:

- 1) The Department recommends that the proponent present the Board with an assessment of planned withdrawals that accounts for seasonal and annual variability as well as potential competing use allocations.
- 2) The Department recommends that the proponent consult with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and provide the Board with an assessment of potentially competing water uses, including environmental flows associated with the fish habitat project.
- 3) The Department recommends that the proponent provide additional information on water chemistry within Char River and Nipissar Lake, outlining any potential impacts water transfers could have on water quality.
- 4) The Department recommends that the proponent provide an assessment of alternative supplementary community water sources that assesses seasonal availability, annual flow variability, competing water allocations and that fully captures potential mitigation costs.