



Executive Summary

Public Hearing
Amendment Application #1

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

September 25, 2014

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (the Department) is an interested party in the Nunavut Water Board review of the Government of Nunavut's (the licensee) application to amend the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet Type 'A' Water Licence that allows for seasonal replenishment of Nipissar Lake. Pursuant to federal legislation, the Department is tasked with protecting and conserving Nunavut's freshwater resources under the *Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Act* and the *Nunavut Waters and Surface Rights Tribunal Act*. The amendment is intended to address the drawdown of Nipissar Lake, the primary water supply for Rankin Inlet, due to increased water use by the hamlet and leaks in the water supply system.

The Department remains concerned with respect to the viability of Char River as an adequate water source for the replenishment of Nippisar Lake and with respect to understanding competing water uses for Char River. The Licensee indicated that minimal information has been developed to characterize flow in the Char River or to evaluate the impacts of water withdrawal on Lower Landing Lake and its downstream environments. The department has four primary recommendations:

1. The licensee develop an adaptive management plan that would include:
 - a. seasonal flow monitoring of Char River for the duration of the licence,
 - b. formulation of in-stream flow objectives for Char River, and
 - c. mitigation options for occurrences when flow may be insufficient to meet pumping objectives.
2. The licensee undertake multi-year seasonal flow monitoring of Char River to:
 - a. assess the on-going viability of Char River in meeting community water needs, and
 - b. support the adaptive management of water withdrawals, including the establishment of in-stream flow objectives.
3. The licensee conduct a more robust assessment of alternative supplementary community water sources that would:
 - a. assess watershed water balances, seasonal availability, annual flow variability, competing water uses and
 - b. fully capture implementation and operational costs.
4. The licensee place erosion management structures at the pipeline low point to prevent erosion when releasing the water from the pipeline.