



Water Resources Division
Nunavut Regional Office
Iqaluit, NU
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NWB File: 3AM-GRA1015
CIDMS #: 914503

May 11, 2015

Phyllis Beaulieu
Manager of Licencing
P.O. Box 119
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Re: Type "A" Water License Renewal Application – Completeness and Initial Technical Review of Type "A" 3AM – GRA1015 - Hamlet of Rankin Inlet

Please be advised that Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) have completed a review of the water license application for 3AM-GRA1015 for the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet. The NWB circulated the Renewal Application for comments on March 27, 2015. All associated documents related to this application posted on the NWB ftp site under 3AM-GRA1015 were included in my review (See attached Technical Review Memo).

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 975-4282 or by email at Ian.Parsons@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Ian Parsons, B.Sc.
Regional Coordinator

Cc. Andrew Keim, A/Manager of Water Resources – AANDC, Nunavut
Regional Office (NRO)
Erik Allain, Manager of Field Operations – AANDC, NRO



Technical Review Memorandum

Re: Type "A" Water License Renewal Application – Completeness and Initial Technical Review of Type "A" 3AM – GRA1015 - Hamlet of Rankin Inlet

Comments/Recommendations

- 1) Given that the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet is not applying for more water use, water use currently set at 850,000m³, and has indicated that they will have to apply for a licence amendment in 2023 for an increase in water use, as well as there being a lot of uncertainty in regards to Char river being a sustainable water source to resupply Nipissar Lake for a number of years, AANDC is not in support of a 25 year water licence renewal for the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet and would rather support a 8 year term to 2023.
- 2) AANDC also notes that First Landing Lake or Lower Landing Lake was used and may still be used for industrial purposes (float planes, etc). AANDC has learned that because of these past industrial uses there is a possibility of hydrocarbon contamination within the lake itself and also within the catchment area. AANDC recommends that the applicant clearly demonstrate that there is no contamination within the catchment area of Char River.
- 3) AANDC notes there are missing or incomplete administrative reports including annual (monitoring data for all years) and quarterly reports for this water licence since the renewal in 2010. AANDC recommends that the Hamlet provide the missing information or justification as to why it has not been submitted to the NWB.
- 4) AANDC notes that the applicant has indicated that they will be pumping water from Char River to supplement Nipissar Lake at a rate of 3485m³/day. However AANDC would like more information as to how many days the applicant requires, what the minimum/maximum number of days that pumping will occur. Will the number of pumping days increase in subsequent years or will the pumping rate increase to account for more water use per year.
- 5) AANDC would also like further information on the sustainability of Char River and subsequent contingency plans. If for example the applicant is only able to withdraw water from Char river for 5-7 days this year, what will be the



plan going forward? Will the applicant look immediately for a different secondary source or will they wait another year or two to see if other years provide more pumping days.

- 6) AANDC notes that there is no alternative's assessment for additional water sources should Char River not be sufficient as a supplemental water source. AANDC recommends that the applicant provide an alternative's assessment of other water sources which could be utilized as a supplemental water source for Nipissar Lake.
- 7) AANDC notes that there are still many non-compliance issues outstanding in regards to the water licence (i.e., Water Quality Monitoring). These non-compliance issues will be further commented on in detail at the technical review stage of the water licence process.
- 8) AANDC notes that the applicant plans on submitting updated versions of the following plans;
 - a. Updated *Sewage Treatment Facility Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan*; and
 - b. Updated *Environmental Monitoring Program and Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan*.

AANDC notes that there has been problems with the sewage disposal system in the past and looks forward to reviewing these plans when they are made available.

- 9) AANDC also notes that the applicant also plans on submitting a *Water Pumping Adaptive Management Plan* as per Part C, Item 11 of Amendment No.1. AANDC also looks forward to reviewing this plan when it is made available.
- 10) AANDC requests that the proponent change contact information for reporting all spills to Manager of Field Operations, phone: 867-975-4295, fax 867 975-6445 as well as the Nunavut Spill Report Line.