



Date: April 24/10

To: Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board

From: Ian Parsons, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Nunavut
Regional Office, Water Resources Division

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Prepared for: May 18/19, 2010 Public Hearing concerning Water License Renewal Application (# 3AM-GRA----), Government of Nunavut, Department of Community and Government Services (GN-CGS), Hamlet of Rankin Inlet.

Previous (Expired) Licence: 3BM-GRA0207

Please be advised that Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has reviewed the above referenced Type A Water License Renewal Application as submitted by GN-CGS to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) for approval.

In March of 2009 the GN-CGS applied for a renewal of its previous water license (#3BM-GRA0207).

On July 16th, 2009 the NWB completed an assessment of the application and requested additional information from the Applicant. The NWB also indentified that the application qualifies as a Type 'A' licence and as a result would necessitate a Public Hearing.

The Applicant provided the additional information to the NWB on October 6 and 7, 2009. The NWB responded to the Applicant (in a letter dated October 22, 2009) requesting additional information related to potential drawdown of Nipisar Lake. In turn, GN-CG&S requested (in a letter dated November 24, 2009) that the Board move forward with the renewal process and proposed that future studies related to the drawdown of Nipisar Lake be provided once they have been completed.

On December 15, 2009 INAC provided comments to the NWB on the completeness of the application and the potential drawdown of Nipisar Lake. INAC noted concerns over the potential drawdown of Nipisar Lake as the proposed water use of 769,237 m³ (annually) well exceeds the identified lake recharge rate of 314,000 m³ (annually).

On February 24, 2010 INAC provided comments to the NWB, as requested by the NWB on January 25, 2010, concerning the complete renewal application (#3AM-GRA----) as submitted by Nuna Burnside on behalf of the GN-CGS. INACs concerns included:



Water Use/Lake Drawdown

Water use in the application is said to be 876,000m³/year based on current water treatment facility operator records. This is more than double the previously licensed limit of 400,000m³/year. As per the renewal application, the recharge rate is said to be 314,000m³/year. Based on these figures INAC recommends further studies into the sustainability of Nipisar Lake as a viable water source for the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet. These studies should include, but are not limited to; a bathymetric study of the lake and a study with regards to recharge rates of the lake.

Application

The application had several omissions including, items under **Part B Item #1** of the water license. These include i) tabular summaries of all data generated under the Monitoring Program (Some data has been generated however not all data). ii) list of unauthorized discharges. iii) a summary of abandonment and restoration work completed and any work anticipated for the next year. As well, the application contained items pertaining to the solid waste facility. INAC recommended that these items (pertaining to the solid waste facility) be removed with the resubmission of the application.

The proponent did address part of this issue in their March 19th submission by commenting that the application was done based on records that were available, however, the proponent did not resubmit the application (with the above noted items to be removed). This issue was a part (of the commitments) of the March 9th letter by the NWB submitted to the proponent.

Sewage

Sludge from the sewage treatment facility is disposed of at the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet Landfill (licensed under 3BM-RAN0207). During the March 19th letter and the April 19th teleconference, the GN-CGS acknowledged that no written agreement is in place for the disposal of sludge into the Hamlets landfill; however it is being developed. Although INAC agrees that a written agreement must be in place, the written agreement should be between licensed facilities. Currently, licence 3BM-RAN0207 is expired.

On March 3/10 and April 19/10, INAC participated in Technical Meetings/Pre-Hearing Conferences (TM/PHC) for the license renewal application as held by the NWB by teleconference.

During the first teleconference concerns identified by the regulatory agencies were brought forth for discussion by the NWB. The proponent was given an opportunity to respond to concerns. However, it was decided that a second teleconference, to take place on April 19, 2010, would be required to allow the proponent additional time to better address the concerns raised by the various agencies. It was also decided that a Public Hearing would take place in Rankin Inlet on May 18 and 19, 2010.



In a letter dated March 9, 2010, the NWB outlined the commitments made by the parties attending the March 3, 2010 teleconference. The letter also stated that these commitments were to be met by March 31, 2010, via submission to the NWB.

During the April 19, 2010 teleconference the commitments outlined in the March 9th letter were brought forward for discussion. As studies related to the draw down of Nipisar Lake were still being conducted, very little was resolved. Further, the proponent requested that the outstanding studies be addressed in the license as a 'condition', with a proposed date of submission being Dec 31, 2010.

Cc. Lou-Ann Cornacchio, Manager of Water Resources – Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Nunavut Regional Office