



Indigenous and  
Northern Affairs Canada

Affaires autochtones  
et du Nord Canada

# Executive Summary

## Public Hearing Water Licence Renewal

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

March 16, 2016

Executive Summary, Public Hearing  
Water Licence #3AM-GRA1015

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC or the Department) is an interested party in the Nunavut Water Board's review of the Government of Nunavut's (the licensee) application to renew the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet Type 'A' Water Licence that allows for water use and wastewater disposal (sewage). 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 renewal is intended to address the increase in water use, the seasonal replenishment of Nipissar Lake and the disposal and discharge of waste (domestic sewage) into the Marine Environment.

During the review process, the Department raised several concerns related to water quality and quantity (use) as well as with waste disposal (sewage); the applicant has adequately addressed many of these concerns.

The department has only two concerns remaining:

1. The source location for the seasonal replenishment of Nipissar Lake.
2. The disposal of waste to the marine environment along with associated exceedances of the discharge criteria, allowed under the *Canadian Council of Ministers for the Environment Guidelines* (CCME) for the Protection of Aquatic Life – Marine Environment.

The viability of Char River as an adequate water source for the indefinite seasonal replenishment of Nipissar Lake has been a concern for the department from the beginning of the renewal process. The department had asked the applicant to substantiate the viability of Char River and to look at other possible alternatives for the replenishment of Nipissar Lake.

The Applicant responded to the board by providing two documents that spoke to the viability of Char River and an alternate replenishment source.

The allowance for the disposal of waste (domestic sewage) to the marine environment falls under the *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act* (AWPPA) and its associated regulations. When following the acts and regulations it is evident that such a discharge to the marine environment requires certain authorizations to be obtained by the applicant. In this case the authorizing component in Nunavut falls under the Public Health Act and its associated regulations which conclude that the authorization for such a discharge would only come from the Chief Medical Health Officer for the Territory. Therefore to ensure that all parties have the same understanding of the requirements for the discharging of waste to the marine environment, under all acts and regulations, the department is looking forward to discussing this issue during the Public Hearing.

The Department will be participating in the upcoming public hearing in Rankin Inlet on March 16-17, 2016.