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Environment and Climate Change Canada's Presentation to the Nunavut Water Board Concerning the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet's Water Licence Renewal Application

Nunavut Water Board Public Hearing
Rankin Inlet, NU
March 16-17, 2016

ECCC's Mandate

- *Department of the Environment Act:*
 - General responsibility for environmental management and protection
 - Preserve and enhance water, air and soil quality
 - Conserve and protect:
 - Migratory birds, species at risk, flora and fauna
 - Provide meteorological information
 - Coordinate environmental policies and programs

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How ECCC Fulfills its Mandate

Relevant Acts and Regulations:

- *Department of the Environment Act*
- *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*
- *Fisheries Act* – pollution prevention provisions
- *Migratory Birds Convention Act*
- *Species at Risk Act*

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ECCC's Role in Nunavut

- Review development and remediation proposals for environmental impacts falling within ECCC's mandate
- Provide recommendations and expert advice to the Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Nunavut Water Board
- Enforce compliance with legislation that falls within ECCC's mandate

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Context of ECCC's Review

- The Government of Nunavut (GN) submitted an application for the renewal of the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet Type "A" Water Licence
- ECCC's comments reflect issues outstanding after technical discussions with the GN
- Concerns focused on:
 - marine discharge quality and monitoring
 - secondary treatment of sewage wastewater,
 - updates to the Sewage Treatment Facility (STF) Operation and Maintenance Plan, and
 - management of oils and grease

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Monitoring of Marine Discharge Quality

- The municipal water licence requires quarterly monitoring of effluent for parameters as specified in Part H.4 of the current licence.
- ECCC recommends two changes:
 - Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons should be analyzed using a method that measures mineral sources of hydrocarbons (e.g. ASTM D7678 PHC test or other), as well, the lab test for total oil and grease should also be done to measure all hydrocarbons including biological lipids.
 - Analyze for cBOD5 either in addition to or in place of BOD5 to determine the pollutant removal from wastewater.

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Monitoring of Marine Discharge Quality

- Quality Assurance /Quality Control Plan:
 - ECCC recommends Item H.9 be carried forward in the renewal licence and that the Plan be submitted for Board approval.
 - ECCC supports retaining the requirement under Item H.10, an annual review of the Plan and that the reference therein to Part J should be corrected.

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Future infrastructure upgrades

- ECCC and the GN have agreed to continue discussing effluent quality for marine discharge outside the water licence renewal process.
 - Necessary improvement of effluent quality will require upgrading of facilities which are regulated under water licence 3AM-GRA1015.
- ECCC seeks a commitment from the GN to identify options for secondary treatment, and to develop a plan to implement secondary treatment within a specific time frame, to ensure compliance with the *Fisheries Act*.

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Future infrastructure upgrades

- ECCC suggests a shorter licence term would be appropriate to align with the planning horizon for treatment upgrades.
- ECCC suggests that a term of 8 years be considered by the Board, as previously put forward by the parties and agreed to by the GN.

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Disposal of Oils and Greases

- ECCC recommends that there be further compliance promotion on appropriate oil and grease disposal.
 - High levels of processing plant and other waste fats are entering the municipal wastewater stream. The GN has indicated that commercial facilities operating in the Hamlet have been approached regarding disposal of grease. Improvements have not been achieved.

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Conclusion

- ECCC would like to thank the Nunavut Water Board for the opportunity to participate in this Type "A" Water Licence Renewal process

Thank you!

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