



Water Resources Division  
Resource Management Directorate  
Nunavut Regional Office  
P.O. Box 100  
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Your file - Votre référence  
3AM-GRA1624  
Our file - Notre référence  
GCdocs # 98094336

October 12, 2021

Mr. Richard Dwyer  
Manager of Licensing  
Nunavut Water Board  
P.O. Box 119  
Gjoa Haven, NU, X0B 1J0  
*sent via e-mail: [licensing@nwb-oen.ca](mailto:licensing@nwb-oen.ca)*

**Re: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's (CIRNAC) Reply to the Government of Nunavut, Department of Community and Government Services' (GN-CGS) Response on the 2020 Annual Report for Rankin Inlet, Type "A" Water Licence No. 3AM-GRA1624**

Dear Mr. Dwyer,

Thank you for your October 5, 2021 invitation to reply to the Government of Nunavut, Department of Community and Government Services (GN-CGS) response to CIRNAC's comments on the 2020 Annual Report submitted on behalf of the municipality of Rankin Inlet Type "A" Water Licence No. 3AM-GRA1624.

## **CIRNA-01: QUANTITY OF WATER WITHDRAWN**

**Recommendation:** CIRNAC requests that the licensee:

- a. Clarify if any amount / volume of water was withdrawn from any fresh water source in Rankin Inlet in the months of April and May, 2020.
- b. If yes, what is the estimated amount of water withdrawn in April and May, 2020 respectively?
- c. Provide information on the current state of the flow meters (whether they are repaired or replaced).



### **GN-CGS Response:**

- a) Water was withdrawn from Nipissar Lake in April and May.
- b) The estimated amount in each month was 50,945 m<sup>3</sup>.
- c) All flowmeters are currently operational.

CIRNAC is satisfied with GN-CGS' response.

### **CIRNA-02: Pumping of 355,444 m<sup>3</sup> water from Lower Landing Lake**

**Recommendation:** CIRNAC requests that the licensee clarify pumping of 355,444 m<sup>3</sup> of water from Landing Lake into Nipissar Lake in 2020 when it was not permissible under water licence 3AM-GRA1624 terms and conditions.

**GN-CGS Response:** That is correct. Ensuring adequate water supply for the Municipality Rankin Inlet is essential to protect human life. The Chief Medical Health Officer signed a letter indicating that the water must be withdrawn because adhering to the previous license would have caused a public health emergency. It was demonstrated in the license amendment process that Lower Landing Lake can support the annual withdrawal rate. CGS can meet the municipal water needs and remain in compliance under the terms of the new license.

CIRNAC is satisfied with GN-CGS' response. CIRNAC requests that a copy of the Chief Medical Health Officer's letter be provided to the NWB for publication on the public registry.

### **CIRNA-03: Quantity of Solid wastes/sludge**

**Recommendation:** CIRNAC recommends that the licensee update the "2020 *Environmental Monitoring Program and Quality Assurance / Quality Control Plan*" to include information on solid waste / sludge data collection procedures at the sewage treatment facility.

**GN-CGS Response:** There is no sludge generated at the sewage treatment facility only solids collected by augers in garbage bags and transported to the solid waste site. The licensee will update the QA/QC Plan with this information.

CIRNAC is satisfied with GN-CGS' response.

### **CIRNA-04: Potential impacts to receiving environment**

**Recommendation:** CIRNAC recommends that the licensee provide the following information to the NWB:



- a. Provide within 30 days “as built” installation/construction drawing signed and stamped by an Engineer registered in Nunavut, for the newly installed/constructed access road as well as for the newly installed pipeline.
- b. Provide detailed information on the potential impacts of the newly installed/constructed access road; and the newly installed pipeline on both the flow pattern and attributes (surface features) of the Char River and Lower Landing Lake in the next Annual Report
- c. Provide a mitigation plan for any identified impacts; particularly mitigation against potential erosion and sediment build-up on the river/lake banks of Lower Landing Lake and Char River.
- d. Update the environmental monitoring program and quality assurance / quality control plan to include information on flow monitoring and data collection procedures at river/lake banks of Lower Landing Lake and Char River and provide that information.
- e. Provide, within 30 days the data/results used to support the conclusion that, “*no change to flow occurred to date*” after the new access road was installed/constructed; also after moving of the pump from the Char River to Lower Landing Lake was undertaken.

#### **GN-CGS Response:**

- a) All of the applicable information was provided by CGS during the amendment application process. The regulators, including CIRNAC participated in the technical review process prior to issuing the new license.
- b) All of the applicable information was provided by CGS during the amendment application process. The regulators, including CIRNAC participated in the technical review process prior to issuing the new license.
- c) All of the applicable information was provided by CGS during the amendment application process. The regulators, including CIRNAC participated in the technical review process prior to issuing the new license.
- d) The QA/QC Plan will be updated.
- e) The new pipeline bypasses Char River completely and therefore its presence does not impact the flow. Water level monitoring of Lower Landing Lake was requested by CIRNAC as part of the new water licence to provide that monitoring portion of the impact to lower landing lake based on the water taking. These will now be included in the annual reports.



CIRNAC is satisfied with the majority of GN-CGS' responses. Having conducted a search of the NWB FT site, CIRNAC cannot locate the drawings referred to in (a) and request that they be provided as soon as possible.

### **CIRNA-05: Water Quality**

**Recommendation:** CIRNAC recommends that the Licensee and the GN-CGS adopt the provided example / template to be used to compare data sets collected annually during Freshet from the listed sampling points. Data collected over time (annually) may then be compared and evaluated to determine compliance with CCME water quality guidelines for the protection of freshwater aquatic life. This table may also be used at other sites in Nunavut and in future Annual Reports.

**GN-CGS Response:** The licensee will follow the format provided by CIRNAC on the 2021 Annual Report.

CIRNAC is satisfied with GN-CGS' response.

CIRNAC appreciates the opportunity to participate in this review. If there are any questions, please contact John Onita at (867) 975-3876 or Andrew Keim at (867) 975-4550 or [andrew.keim@canada.ca](mailto:andrew.keim@canada.ca)

Sincerely,

John Onita  
Regional Water Coordinator