

# NUNAVUT WATER BOARD AMENDED WATER LICENCE NO: 3AM-GRA1631 REASONS FOR DECISION INCLUDING RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

### **NUNAVUT WATER BOARD**

In the Matter of:

Applicant:	Government of Nunavut, Department of Community and Government Services (GN-CGS)	
Subject:	Application to Amend Existing Type "A" Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624	
Date:	September 16, 2020	
Precedence:	Where there is any inconsistency or conflict between the Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement) and the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act (NWNSRTA), the Agreement prevails to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict. Where there is any inconsistency or conflict between the NWNSRTA and any other act of Parliament, except the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act, the NWNSRTA prevails to the	

extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

#### **RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

Applicant: Government of Nunavut, Community and

Government Services (GN-CGS)

Address: P.O. Box 490

Municipality of Rankin Inlet, NU

X0C 0G0

Purpose: Application to Amend Type "A" Water

Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624

Application Received on:

September 16, 2020

Application

Received from:

Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services Department for the

Municipality of Rankin Inlet

Written Public

Hearing Record

Closed:

June 04, 2021

#### Participants in the Board's processing of the Application:

#### **NWB**

#### **Representatives:**

Nunavut Water Board PanelChairmanL. ToomasieMembersMemberS. Silou(Panel P10):MemberE. Uniuqsaraq

Nunavut Water Board Staff: Executive Director S. Autut

Director of Technical Services

K. Kharatyan

Licensing Manager

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Technical Advisors

A. Shaikh

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Licensing Administrator

R. Dwyer

Director of Board Administration B. Kogvik and Communication/Translator

Legal Counsel T. Meadows (Meadows Law)

#### **Applicant:**

Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services (GN-CGS) Municipal Planning Engineer S. Collins

Municipal Technical Officers M. Muckpah-Gavin

M. Hewey

Municipal Infrastructure, Specialist

**Training Officer** 

K. Clouter

Water, Wastewater Manager S. Doiron

Council Member L. Rudd

#### **Parties:**

(provided written Public Hearing submissions and participated via teleconference in the NWB's Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference for the Application):

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**Crown-Indigenous Relations** Acting Manager Water Resources B. Campbell and Northern Affairs Water Management Specialist S. Forté (CIRNA) **Environmental Assessment Coordinator** Anna Graham Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Department of Fisheries and Senior Biologist Lynn Dupuis Oceans (DFO) Written Record of Available from the Board's public registry using the following link: **Submissions:** ftp://ftp.nwb-oen.ca/registry/3%20MUNICIPAL/3A/3AM%20-%20Municipality/3AM-GRA1631/2%20ADMIN/3%20SUBMISSIONS/

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#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

CIRNA Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

(formerly INAC and AANDC)

ECCC Environment and Climate Change Canada (formerly

Environment Canada)

GN-CGS Government of Nunavut, Community and Government

Services

NIRB Nunavut Impact Review Board

Nunavut Agreement Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement

Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada

NPC Nunavut Planning Commission

NuPPAA Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act, S.C. 2013,

c. 14, s. 2

NWNSRTA Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act,

S.C. 2002, c. 10

NWB Nunayut Water Board

PHC Pre-Hearing Conference

PH Public Hearing

TM Technical Meeting

#### **REASONS FOR DECISION**

#### **Executive Summary**

This decision is in relation to an application before the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board), filed by Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services (Applicant, Licensee or GN-CGS) requesting the amendment of an existing Type "A" Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624 (the Licence) which authorizes the use of water and deposit of waste associated with the GN-CGS operation of a "Municipal Undertaking<sup>1</sup>" in the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet (the Amendment Application).

The Hamlet of Rankin Inlet is located on the Kudlulik Peninsula in Nunavut, on the northwestern shores of Hudson Bay, between Chesterfield Inlet and Arviat. It is the largest hamlet and second-largest settlement in Nunavut, after the territorial capital, Iqaluit. It is the regional center for the Kivalliq Region with a population of 2842 (2016 census). The existing Licence allows for the use of 850,000 m<sup>3</sup> of water per year and the deposit of sewage waste associated with the Municipal Undertaking.

The NWB conducted a review of the Amendment Application, including a completeness check, technical review, and a Technical Meeting/Pre-Hearing Conference (TM/PHC) was held by video/teleconference on February 25, 2021, with the Applicant, and Intervener, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNA) participating. On the evening of February 25, 2021, the Board's staff also planned to host a Community Session for the file, using video and audio links to a central in-person hub in the community of Rankin Inlet. Unfortunately, on the morning of February 25, due to a blizzard in Rankin Inlet, the NWB, in the interests of public safety, provided notice that the NWB's plans for a central hub were cancelled. In the February 25 notice, participants were provided with the call-in information to participate by Zoom (video) and/or teleconference. Two teleconference lines were provided so that callers could participate in English or Inuktitut. On the evening of February 25, the NWB, the Applicant and Intervener, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affair (CIRNA) joined the Community Session by video link, but no members of the public signed in on the Zoom or teleconference lines in the first 35 minutes of the Community Session, and the Community Session was cancelled.

Reflecting the discussions at the TM-PHC, the limited interest expressed by the public during the Board's technical review of the Amendment Application, and the public health restrictions, such as gathering limits on in-person public meetings and restricted travel, in Nunavut, the Rankin Inlet Panel determined that it was appropriate to conduct the Public Hearing in writing. The Board

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As of April 2013, when the *Nunavut Waters Regulations*, SOR/2013-69 came into force, a "Municipal Undertaking" under Schedule 1 is defined as "a waste disposal or water system for a municipality" without reference to population size.

published notice of the written Public Hearing on April 2, 2021, and at the same time, the Board set out the timelines for final written submissions, public comments and the Applicant's filing of final response submissions. Interested members of the public and the interveners were required to file with the Board any final written comment submissions and presentation materials they requested that the Board consider during decision-making for the file on or before May 24, 2021. The Applicant provided final replies and final written submissions by May 31, 2021. On June 04, 2021, the Board issued notice that the Panel had closed the Public Hearing Record for the Amendment Application, and remitted the file to the Panel for decision-making.

To decide whether to grant the Amendment Application, the Board considered:

- the information provided with the Amendment Application by the GN-CGS;
- technical review comments in respect of the Amendment Application submitted by the Board, Interveners and the public;
- the Applicant's commitments and responses to information requests from the parties during the technical review of the Amendment Application; and
- the final written submissions filed with the Board by all parties prior to the close of the Public Hearing Record to decide whether to grant the amendments to Type "A" Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624 as requested in the Amendment Application.

On this basis, on July 8, 2021, Panel P10, duly appointed by the Board to consider the Amendment Application has by way of Motion No. 2021-04-P10-05 decided the following:

- To grant, in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in this Decision, the Applicant's request to amend the existing Type "A" Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624 with the attached Type "A" Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1631<sup>2</sup> (the Amended Licence);
- Specific terms and conditions of note in the Amended Licence include the following:
  - o the term of the Licence is extended by 7 years, with the Licence set to expire in 2031:
  - o changing the authorized location and water source from Char River to Lower Landing Lake to authorize the Licensee's pumping of water from Lower Landing Lake during the open water season to replenish the community's drinking water source, Nippisar Lake;
  - o increasing the amount of water that can be pumped from the new source; Lower Landing Lake;

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The number of the Amended Licence has been updated to reflect that the term of the original Licence has been extended by 7 years to expire in 2031.

o consequential amendments to various terms and conditions in the Licence necessary to reflect changes to monitoring and reporting requirements resulting from the changes to the Licence.

#### SECTION I: FILE BACKGROUND AND REGULATORY HISTORY

#### **Current Amendment Application**

The Amendment Application was submitted by the Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services (Applicant or Licensee or GN-CGS) on September 16, 2020. In the submission, the GN-CGS requested the amendment of the Type "A" Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624 (the Licence), which authorizes the use of water and deposit of waste associated with a "Municipal Undertaking" as defined under the *Nunavut Waters Regulations*<sup>3</sup> in the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet. The Applicant requested amendments to the Licence to authorize the relocation of the domestic water uptake pumping station from Char River to Lower Landing Lake for pumping to replenish Nipissar Lake during the open water season, an increase in water use to increase the annual pumping volume, an extension of the term of the Licence by an additional seven (7) years, with the Licence expiry extended from 2024 to 2031, and associated modifications to monitoring and reporting under the Licence.

All documents filed in association with the Amendment Application, as well as all documents provided by the Applicant in support of the Amendment Application are listed in detail in <u>APPENDIX B - List of Submissions and Correspondence</u> that is attached to these Reasons for Decision. A summary of the key Amendment Application materials provided by the Applicant on September 16, 2020 included the following documents:

- Application to Amend Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624
- NPC and NIRB Decisions
- Topographic Map
- Diagram of Pipeline Extension to Lower Landing Lake
- 2019 Annual Report
- Wastewater treatment plant upgrades Rankin Inlet: Final Report, July 2020
- Rankin Inlet Wastewater Effluent Study Report, March 2020
- Nipissar Lake and Lower Landing Lake Water Balance Assessment, February 2016
- Plan for Compliance
- Executive Summary, English
- Executive Summary, Inuktitut

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> SOR/2013-69.

All submissions in respect of the Amendment Application are available from the NWB's public registry at the following link:

ftp://ftp.nwb-oen.ca/registry/3%20MUNICIPAL/3A/3AM%20-%20Municipality/3AM-GRA1631/2%20ADMIN/3%20SUBMISSIONS/

#### **Scope of the Amendment Application**

The Amendment Application before the NWB is for an amendment to the existing Type "A" Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624. The general scope of the Amendment Application includes the following:

- relocating the pumping station from Char River to Lower Landing Lake for replenishing Nipissar Lake during the open water season,
- increasing the annual pumping volume from the source,
- subsequent removal of compliance point GRA-6 from the Licence due to the relocation of pumping station,
- the removal of current quarterly reporting that must be submitted to the Nunavut Water Board 4 times/year,
- discontinuing the submission of a water pumping adaptive management plan for the pumping of water to Nipissar Lake from Lower Landing Lake, and
- extending the term of the Licence by seven (7) years, so that the expiry of the Licence is extended from 2024 to the end of 2031.

#### Regulatory and Procedural History of the Amendment Application

#### Licensing History of the Undertaking

Reflecting the NWB's jurisdiction for licensing undertakings resulting in the use of water and deposit of waste as established under Article 13 of the *Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 10 (*NWNSRTA*), the NWB has issued three (3) Licences for this undertaking to date.

- 2. Licence No: NWB3GRA0207
  - Issued by the NWB on December 1, 2002 and expired on November 30, 2007
  - Allowed for the use of up to 400,000 m<sup>3</sup> of water per year and the deposit of waste associated with the Municipal Undertaking
- 3. Licence No: 3AM-GRA1015

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- Issued by the NWB on June 9, 2010 and expired on May 31, 2015
- Allowed for the use of up to 850,000 m<sup>3</sup> of water per year and the deposit of sewage waste associated with the Municipal Undertaking

#### Licence No: 3AM-GRA1015 Amendment No 1

- This amendment was issued December 23, 2014 and allowed for the pumping of 3485 m3 per day from the Char River to Nipissar Lake during the open water season
- The amendment also allowed for the short term renewal (May 20, 2015 to November 27, 2015) of the Licence to allow for processing of the renewal application

#### 4. Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624

- Issued by the NWB on May 2, 2016 and set to expire on May 1, 2024
- Allowed for the use of 850,000 m<sup>3</sup> of water per year and the deposit of sewage waste associated with the Municipal Undertaking
- Authorized the transfer of 3,485 m<sup>3</sup> of water per day from Char River to replenish Nipissar Lake

#### **Pre-licensing Requirements**

#### The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC)

On July 29, 2020, the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) issued its conformity determination<sup>4</sup> for the Amendment Application which stated the following:

- The activities associated with this proposal were previously reviewed by the NPC, and conformity determinations were issued on March 10, 2010 and June 19, 2016, which still apply;
- The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) previously screened the works and activities associated with the Amendment Application, and a Screening Decision Report was issued on November 03, 2017 (NIRB FILE No. 13UN037); and
- The Amendment Application is exempt from further screening by the NIRB because the Amendment Application did not constitute a significant modification to the general scope of the original or previously amended project activities.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> NPC Determination; NPC File # 149381 [3AM-GRA1624 Municipal Water Licence Amendment], dated July 29, 2020.

On this basis, the NPC did not refer the Amendment Application to the NIRB for further screening and forwarded the Amendment Application to the NWB for processing.

#### The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)

As noted by the NPC, prior to the NWB's consideration of application to amend the GN-CGS Type "A" Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) previously screened that project proposal and a Screening Decision Report (SDR) was issued on November 03, 2017. In the report (13UN037), NIRB stated that a further impact assessment (review) was not required pursuant to paragraph 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*) and the project proposal was forwarded to the NWB for consideration. In respect of the Amendment Application, as the NPC's determination was that the activities, works and undertakings proposed in the Amendment Application were not a significant modification of the project proposal as screened by the NIRB in 2017, the project proposal did not require additional assessment and was forwarded to the NWB for consideration.

On this basis, the NWB has concluded that the land use conformity and environmental assessment requirements for the Amendment Application as required under ss. 38 and 39 of *the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 10 (*NWNSRTA or Act*) and Part 3 of the *NuPPAA* have been met, and the Amendment Application proceeded to the regulatory stage of processing by the NWB.

#### **Key Steps in NWB's Procedural History of the Amendment Application**

The following listing summarizes only selected key steps in the procedural history of the NWB's processing of the Amendment Application. Complete information related to the procedural history of the Amendment Application and all information received in support of the file can be accessed from the NWB's FTP site and Public Registry using the following link:

ftp://ftp.nwb-oen.ca/registry/3%20MUNICIPAL/3A/3AM%20-%20Municipality/3AM-GRA1631/1%20APPLICATION/2020%20Amendment/

#### September 16, 2020

 NWB received an application to amend Type "A" Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624 from the GN-CGS

#### September 21, 2020

 Following an internal review of documents, NWB distributed correspondence requesting that parties conduct their completeness check and initial technical assessment of the information in the Amendment Application, with the deadline for submission set for October 16, 2020

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#### October 16, 2020

• In commenting on the completeness of the Amendment Application, CIRNA provided several Information Requests (IR)

#### October 27, 2020

• GN-CGS responded to CIRNA's Information Requests (IR)

#### November 09, 2020

■ The NWB deemed the Amendment Application to be complete and issued Public Notice of the Amendment Application for a Type "A" Water Licence, commencing a four (4) week technical review period, inviting comment from Interveners, other water users and interested members of the public, and outlining the next steps in the Licensing process

#### December 07, 2020

CIRNA and DFO provided their technical review comments

#### December 21, 2020

GN-CGS provided responses to technical review comments

#### February 04, 2021

• NWB confirmed the dates and format of the Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference (TM/PHC) (via video and audio links, with a hub location in the community of Rankin Inlet) and circulated a Draft Agenda for the TM/PHC

#### February 22, 2021

NWB provided correspondence with the final Agenda for the TM/PHC

#### February 25, 2021

• NWB hosted the TM/PHC via audio and videoconferences (Zoom and teleconference lines for English and Inuktitut feeds)

#### March 25, 2021

■ The NWB issued the Pre-Hearing Conference Decision for the file; including providing a list of commitments, identifying issues to be addressed at the Public Hearing, identifying that the Public Hearing would be conducted in writing, and proposing tentative timelines as the Amendment Application proceeded to the written Public Hearing

#### April 02, 2021

• The NWB issued Notice of the written Public Hearing

#### June 04, 2021

Having received final written submissions from the Applicant and CIRNA, the NWB's duly-appointed three-Member decision-making Panel for the Amendment Application determined that all information required to consider the Amendment Application had now been received, and issued correspondence informing parties that the Public Hearing Record was now closed and that the file had been remitted to the Panel for decision-making

#### The NWB's Timeline for Processing the Amendment Application

As set out under the NWNSRTA, s. 55.2, the NWB is required to process applications for a new, amended or renewed Type "A" Water Licence within 9 months from the receipt of a complete application. However, as expressly noted in s. 55.4, this 9-month period excludes the time that elapses while the NWB is awaiting receipt of information requested from the Applicant.<sup>5</sup> In this case, and as illustrated by the key procedural steps listed above and outlined in the detailed list of submissions included in APPENDIX B: List of Submissions and Correspondence, the Board awaited receipt of additional information from the Applicant in October 2020, December 2020 and February 2021. Additionally, the NWB's timeline for processing the Amendment Application was delayed while the Board modified and revisited the NWB's normal practices to reflect the implementation of various public health measures, including limits on indoor public gatherings, non-essential office closures and travel restrictions commencing in March 2020 and continuing to date, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. By the Board's calculation, the time that elapsed while the Board awaited information submissions from the Applicant and the Parties amounted to approximately 6 weeks (just under 2 months). The Board provided notice of a complete application on November 09, 2020.6 When the 6 weeks of time spent by the NWB waiting for submissions from the Applicant and Interveners is excluded from this timeline, the NWB has rendered this Decision well within the 9-month timeline required under s. 55.2 of the NWNSRTA.

#### SECTION II: SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS OF THE PARTIES

Prior to the Technical Meeting and Pre-hearing Conference (TM/PHC), two opportunities for comment on the Application were provided to interveners and members of the public. The Board's first request for comments requested parties to consider whether the Application was complete. This comment period closed on October 9, 2020. The second comment period requested parties to file substantive technical review comments on or before December 16, 2020. The comments received during these periods are summarized below:

#### **Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA)**

If the Board requires an applicant or a licensee to provide information or studies, the period that, in the Board's opinion, is taken by the applicant or licensee to comply with that requirement is not included in the calculation of the time limit under section 55.2 or its extension

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> As stated in s. 55.4 of the *NWNSRTA*:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> NOTE: the NWB's acknowledgement of the receipt of the Applicant's Amendment Application was issued on September 21, 2020, but this correspondence is not formal notice of an application, and is issued to solicit comments on the completeness of the Amendment Application only. The Board's timeline for processing an application as set out under the *NWNSRTA*, does not begin until parties and the Board have concluded the completeness stage and the Board has determined the Amendment Application is complete and can proceed to the technical review stage. The formal notice of a complete application required to commence the NWB's processing timeline was issued on November 9, 2020.

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs' (CIRNA) participation in water licensing processes in Nunavut is informed by their mandate under the following Acts and associated regulations:

- Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Act;<sup>7</sup>
- Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement);
- Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act (NWNSRTA);<sup>8</sup>
- Territorial Lands Act; 9 and
- Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act. 10

The following comments/recommendations were provided by CIRNA during the technical review stage:

#### 1. Water pumping rate

 Recommendation to discuss the impacts of extracting water from Lower Landing Lake on the flow in the Char River during the technical review.

#### 2. Timing of pumping from Lower Landing Lake

• GN-CGS to clarify why they are requesting permission to pump only in July and August, when this pumping might have the most impact on flows in Char River.

#### 3. Water Pumping Plan

Updated Water Pumping Plan that reflects the proposed pumping location, and requiring GN-CGS to include measures to be taken to prevent sediment from entering water during pipeline installation and removal over the river each year, as well as monitoring to confirm effectiveness of measures taken.

#### 4. Modifications to monitoring program

Recommendations about the requested amendments to modify monitoring requirements at station GRA-6; with water quality monitoring reduced to those parameters typically measured during construction activities and limited to periods when work is occurring, with samples also being taken downstream of work.

<sup>9</sup> R.S.C. 1985, c. T-7.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> S.C. 2019, c. 29, s. 337.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> S.C. 2002, c. 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> R.S.C. 1985, c. A-12.

 Recommendation to review possible modifications to monitoring requirements at station GRA-7, on potential impacts of Lower Landing Lake water withdrawal on Char River flow.

#### 5. Reclamation plans for old intake

 Recommendation to describe reclamation plans for the old water intake facilities on the Char River.

#### 6. Quarterly reporting

 CIRNA expressed their support of the removal of the requirement for quarterly reporting.

#### 7. Term of amended licence

Recommendation to provide a tentative schedule for steps towards upgrading the wastewater treatment plant. Furthermore, should the Nunavut Water Board extend the term of a renewed licence, CIRNA recommended the addition of a condition to report on progress towards upgrading wastewater treatment, with explanations for deviations from the tentative schedule.

In addition to comment submissions on completeness and technical review submissions as set out in detail in <u>APPENDIX B: List of Submissions and Correspondence</u>, on May 25, 2021, the NWB received CIRNA's final written submission summarizing CIRNA's comments on the Amendment Application received throughout the NWB's process. In their final written submission, CIRNA indicated that all of their issues were resolved at the Technical Meeting and by submissions made by the Applicant following the Pre-Hearing Conference. The remaining follow-up recommendations were as follows:

- 1. The NWB should ensure that GN-CGS's commitments to submit a Water Pumping Plan within a year of issuance of an amended licence, and to update the wastewater treatment plant, are captured under amendments to the terms and conditions of the Licence; and
- 2. The Licensee should include the updated Environmental Monitoring Program and Quality Assurance / Quality Control Plan as part of the 2020 Annual Report review.

On May 31, 2020, GN-CGS submitted the Environmental Monitoring Program and Quality Assurance / Quality Control Plan along with the submission of the 2020 Annual Report.

#### **Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)**

With their amendment application, GN-CGS had requested to remove the requirement to provide quarterly reports, in the amended water licence, and to submit only annual reports. CIRNA advised

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that they support this request. E-mail correspondence between CIRNA and ECCC on November 26, 2021, was provided to the NWB on March 1, 2021, as a confirmation that CIRNA and ECCC agree that quarterly reporting is no longer necessary. It was clarified that this requirement was written into the Licence on the basis of a Fisheries Act Direction set by ECCC on April 6, 2017, and a recommendation for quarterly reporting during the Public Hearing for the 3AM-GRA1015 renewal application in 2016 to address outstanding issues with the quality of the marine discharge and the monitoring of the discharges. This correspondence confirmed that the 2017 Direction has been completed, and that CIRNAC and ECCC agree that quarterly reporting is no longer necessary. Therefore, CIRNA agreed that the removal of the quarterly reporting requirement from an amended licence, and maintaining annual reports.

ECCC responded on October 19, 2020, via email, that they had no comments on this amendment application.

#### Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO-FPP or DFO) is responsible for the administration of the Fisheries Act, <sup>11</sup> and some aspects of the Species at Risk Act. <sup>12</sup>

DFO's December 7, 2020 submission stated that they are "of the view that this proposal is not likely to result in the contravention of the above mentioned prohibitions and requirements. At this time, the Program does not have any technical review comments as they relate to the Nunavut Water Board's jurisdiction of the use of waters and the deposit of waste into water or that may enter waters. Therefore Fisheries and Oceans Canada will not be participating in the technical review of the Rankin Inlet Utilidor Community & Government Services Type "A" water licence amendment…". Accordingly, DFO has provided no further comments and did not participate in the TM/PHC for the file.

#### **Nunavut Water Board (NWB)**

On December 10, 2020, the NWB provided the following Technical Review comments –

Effects of pumping rates on Char River flow
 With Lower landing lake as the source of the Char River, increased water withdrawal from
 Lower Landing Lake may also result in reduced flow to the downstream Char River. GN CGS to provide discussion on how flow will be monitored and maintained in the Char
 River to ensure it is not significantly impacted and ecological integrity is maintained.

12 S.C. 2002, c. 49

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> R.S.C. 1985, c. F-14

#### 2. Water Pumping Plan

Provide an amended Plan to reflect the new pumping location and management practices that will ensure water quantity and quality are maintained in Lower Landing Lake and the Char River.

## Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services (GN-CGS, Licensee or Applicant)

GN-CGS provided discussions and clarifications which were required by parties during the review stages of the amendment application. These are summarized below.

#### 1. Water Pumping Rate

- Department of Fisheries and Oceans imposed flow objectives restricting water taking to 10% of the instantaneous flow through Char River. The Water Balance Assessment recommends that water taking be capped at 10% of annual flow through Char River, estimated at approximately 0.202 m³/s, or 1,000,000 m³ annually.
- Considering the nature of the resupply system in Rankin Inlet, modifying pumping volumes to instantaneous river flow volumes would not be practical.
- Annual water usage for the Community was 776,956 m³ in 2020, with increases displayed each year. The approximate annual recharge from the Nipissar watershed is 200,000 300,000 m³, leaving an annual deficit of 500,000-600,000 m³ for the current consumption regime.
- The growing population and increasing infrastructure development will increase water consumption.

#### 2. Removal of monitoring station GRA-6

• This monitoring station was to monitor water quality at the Char River pumping location. With the pumping location moved to Lower Landing Lake, this monitoring station is no longer informative.

#### 3. Removal of quarterly reporting requirement

- It was identified that this requirement was added to align with the Fisheries Act Direction issued to GN-CGS by Environment and Climate Change Canada to monitor effluent quality at the wastewater treatment plant while completing a characterization study and a conceptual planning study.
- This Direction under Fisheries Act was fulfilled as of September 2020, and therefore the quarterly reports are no longer required by ECCC.

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- 4. Removal of annual Adaptive Management Plan submission
  - With the relocation of the resupply from Char River to Lower Landing Lake, and recommendations that daily and annual water taking quantities be based on 10% of the annual total flow through Char River, it is anticipated that the pumping plan will not change year to year.
- 5. Requesting 10-year renewal to 2031
  - The requested amendments to the licence have been made to allow for growth and increase in consumption within the community over the requested extended term of the licence, while respecting the ecologic objectives set by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada.
  - Planning and design studies for new water and wastewater infrastructure will be provided to the Board as completed.

During the written Public Hearing, GN-CGS submitted their Final Written Submission on May 31, 2021. This submission discussed the following:

- 1. Water Quality Monitoring and Lower Landing Lake level monitoring;
  - CGS has made the commitment to add water level monitoring at Lower Landing Lake, once *per* month during open water, and once *per* week during resupply pumping.
  - CIRNA stated in their final written submission that this commitment resolves their recommendation during the technical review.
- 2. Potential adverse effects onto Char River;
  - CIRNA indicated concern for potential impacts to the ecologic flows within Char River due to the increased pumping volumes. This concern was deferred to DFO who indicated that they are "... of the view that this proposal is not likely to result in the contravention of the above-mentioned prohibitions and requirements."
  - CIRNA stated in the final submission that this concern is resolved.
- 3. Pumping from Lower Landing Lake throughout the open water season;
  - CGS had mistakenly indicated a pumping season in the application of July-August, but pumping will not be limited to this timeframe. CGS has corrected the submission by indicating the pumping will take place during the full open water season, which extends from mid-June to mid-September, as required to replenish Nipissar Lake within the pumping volumes requested in this amendment.
  - CIRNAC stated in the final submission that this concern has been resolved.

- 4. Erosion prevention during seasonal pipe installation/removal;
  - GN-CGS clarified that a permanent structure had been constructed over the river which would act as a casing for the flexible piping, and that no construction would occur seasonally. Instead, the flexible pipe will be threaded through the permanent steel carrier pipe and then withdrawn at the end of the season, not impacting the riverbanks.
  - CIRNA stated in their final submission that this resolves the concern.
- 5. Removing the quarterly report and maintaining annual reporting;
  - This requirement was added to the existing licence based on the requirement from the Fisheries Act Direction by the Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada. This direction has been fulfilled as of September 2020, and the quarterly reports are no longer required.
  - CIRNA stated in their final submission that removing the quarterly report and maintaining annual reporting is acceptable.
- 6. Modifications and required updates to the Monitoring Program to reflect the relocation of the pumping station; and
  - CGS has requested to remove compliance point GRA-6 as it is no longer the point of intake, and add water level measurements to GRA-7.
  - CIRNA stated in their final submission that this is acceptable.
- 7. Closure and Reclamation Plan to reflect the removal of pumping equipment at Char River.
  - CGS has indicated that no additional works are required. The pumping equipment at Char River was removable pipe and screen that was removed annually and has already been removed and placed at Lower Landing Lake within the sea can.
  - CIRNA stated in their final submission that they no longer find it necessary to submit a reclamation plan for the site and consider this concern resolved.

## SECTION III: SUBMISSIONS BY OTHER INTERVENING PARTIES OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no written submissions provided to the NWB by any other intervening party or members of the public throughout the Board's consideration of the Amendment Application. As required under ss. 55(1) and 55(2) of the *NWNSRTA*, Notice of the Amendment Application and Notice of the Public Hearing were published and posted on November 9, 2020 and April 02, 2021, respectively. These notices invited any intervening parties or interested members of the public to make representations to the NWB about the Amendment Application. Although the Board was looking forward to the participation of interested community members during the Technical

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Meeting/Pre-Hearing Conference, and made arrangements to facilitate participation at an in-person hub in Rankin Inlet, unfortunately public safety during blizzard conditions, meant that the inperson hub could not remain open. However on-line and teleconference access to the community information session remained. There were no public participants that connected to the TM/PHC proceedings, and no written comments were provided while the comment period of two months remained open for the written Public Hearing. While the Board notes that the restrictions on travel into Nunavut and gathering limits within Nunavut due to the COVID-19 pandemic have necessitated significant changes to the Board's normal processes for conducting in-person proceedings, the Board is confident that the Applicant and the Board have provided opportunities for interested members of the public to ask questions and share their comments or concerns about the Amendment Application throughout the modified proceedings. The Board appreciates all parties working together to accommodate the modifications to the Board's planned processes required to comply with the directions of public health authorities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and as required due to weather conditions, to ensure that all participants remain safe and healthy during the licensing process.

#### **SECTION IV: JURISDICTION OF THE NWB**

Under Division 2 of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 10 (*NWNSRTA*)<sup>13</sup> the NWB has jurisdiction to issue a licence, <sup>14</sup> amend a licence, <sup>15</sup> or in certain circumstances, cancel a licence. <sup>16</sup> In exercising the Board's statutory functions under the *Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada (<i>Nunavut Agreement*) and the statutory regime governing the Board (the *NWNSRTA* and the *Nunavut Waters Regulations*), the NWB must be guided by the following objects:

... to provide for the conservation and utilization of waters in Nunavut, except in a national park, in a manner that will provide the optimum benefit from those waters for the residents of Nunavut in particular and Canadians in general.<sup>17</sup>

In considering the Amendment Application, the NWB was guided by these objects and the NWB's statutory duty to make *all* reasonable efforts to minimize any adverse effects on aquatic ecosystems. Reading several of the Articles of *Nunavut Agreement* together, <sup>18</sup> the NWB relies on the broad definition of "ecosystemic" found in Article 12, Section 12.1.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, requiring not only the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) but also the NWB to

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Sections 42-81 of the *NWNSRTA*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> See ss. 42, 48, 55, 56, and 70 of the *NWNSRTA*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> See s. 43(1)(b) of the *NWNSRTA*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> See s. 43(1)(c) of the *NWNSRTA*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> See s. 35 of the *NWNSRTA*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> This approach is consistent with the direction provided in Article 2, section 2.9.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

ensure that all components of the ecosystem, such as fish and fish habitat, are protected within the parameters of s. 71 of the *NWNSRTA*.

In accordance with Article 13, Section 13.3.6 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 29 of the *NWNSRTA*, <sup>19</sup> the Board has delegated its power to dispose of all matters related to the Application for an amendment to the Type "A" Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624, including the conduct of the Public Hearing, to a Panel of the Board (which is referred to as Panel P10 or the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet Panel).

As with any applications considered by the NWB, the burden of proof rests with the Applicant, the GN-CGS, to demonstrate that its request for an amendment to their Type "A" Water Licence should be granted and that the proposed terms and conditions (amendments to the existing licence) should be granted. In addition, the NWB Rules of Practice state: "[a]ny party offering evidence before the NWB shall have the burden of introducing sufficient and appropriate evidence to support its position."<sup>20</sup>

## SECTION V: REQUIREMENTS OF THE NWNSRTA, THE NUNAVUT AGREEMENT AND NUPPAA

#### Objects of the NWB and its Relationship to other Bodies

As established under Articles 10-13 of the *Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (the *Nunavut Agreement*) prior to the NWB's consideration of the Amendment Application, the Applicant is required to meet the pre-licensing requirements of the Nunavut Planning Commission (land use planning) and the Nunavut Impact Review Board (impact assessment).

#### **Land Use Planning**

As noted in the previous sections of these Reasons for Decision, providing the regulatory and procedural history of the Amendment Application, on July 29, 2020, the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) issued its conformity determination for the project proposal.<sup>21</sup> The NPC determined that the activities associated with the Amendment Application did not constitute significant modifications to the project proposals previously reviewed by the NPC, and therefore, the NPC's conformity determinations issued on March 10, 2010 and June 19, 2016 continued to apply and no additional conformity assessment was required.

<sup>20</sup> Section 23.1 of the Nunavut Water Board "Rules of Practice and Procedure for Public Hearing" (May 11, 2005).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> S.C. 2002, c. 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> NPC Determination; NPC File # 149381 [3AM-GRA1624 Municipal Water Licence Amendment], dated July 29, 2020.

#### <u>Impact Assessment</u>

In NPC's July 29, 2020 correspondence, the NPC also determined that the Amendment Application was exempt from further assessment by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) because the Amendment Application did not involve changes to the general scope of the previously assessed project activities, and the exceptions noted in Article 12, Section 12.4.3 (a) and (b) of the *Nunavut Agreement* do not apply.

Therefore, the NIRB's recommendations following screening of the previously assessed project proposal, (NIRB FILE No. 13UN037), as conveyed in the NIRB's Screening Decision Report issued on November 03, 2017 continue to apply, and no additional impact assessment of the activities, works and undertakings proposed in the Amendment Application was required.

#### SECTION VI: DECISION TO ISSUE

On the basis of the Amendment Application, the written materials filed with the Board during the Board's consideration of the Amendment Application, including the submissions of the Intervener, the Board has decided to grant the Amendment Application to Type "A" Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624 (the Licence) subject to the amended terms and conditions set out below. As the amendments include an extension to the term of the Licence, the Amended Licence has been renumbered to be Licence No: 3AM-GRA1631. The Amended Licence authorizes the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet's continued use of water and deposit of waste for a Municipal Undertaking as defined under Schedule 1 of the *Nunavut Waters Regulations*, with amendments to terms and conditions as required to:

- change the location of the water withdrawn to replenish the Hamlet's drinking water source, Nipissar Lake;
- increase the volume of water withdrawn for the replenishment; and
- update and revise the monitoring and reporting of the changed operations considered by the Board to be necessary to protect the environment, conserve freshwater resources, and provide appropriate safeguards in respect of the use of water in accordance with the Amendment Application.

#### **Conditions for Issuance of a Licence**

Section 57 of the NWNSRTA provides several key legislative requirements that must be satisfied before the NWB may issue a licence.

The Board may not issue a licence unless the applicant satisfies the Board that

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- (a) any waste produced by the appurtenant undertaking will be treated and disposed of in a manner that is appropriate for the maintenance of the water quality standards and effluent standards that are prescribed by the regulations or, in the absence of such regulations, that the Board considers acceptable; and
  - (b) the financial responsibility of the applicant, taking into account the applicant's past performance, is adequate for
    - (i) the completion of the appurtenant undertaking,
    - (ii) such measures as may be required in mitigation of any adverse impact, and
    - (iii) the satisfactory maintenance and restoration of the site in the event of any future closing or abandonment of that undertaking.

#### Financial Responsibility of the Applicant

As outlined under the *NWNSRTA*, s. 57(b), the NWB considers three aspects of the responsibility of an Applicant to carry out a licensed undertaking:

- (i) the financial ability of the Applicant to complete the appurtenant undertaking;
- (ii) the ability of the Applicant to undertake measures to adequately monitor for impacts and implement measures to mitigate any impacts; and
- (iii) the Applicant's ability to maintain and restore the site during care and maintenance, closure and abandonment.

As a public authority, the Board's inquiry into the financial responsibility of the Applicant is somewhat different than would be the case for other types of corporate or individual water licence applicants. Reflecting this distinction, the Board has focused this inquiry on the second and third elements of the financial responsibility assessment; the ability to undertake measures to adequately monitor and mitigate impacts and the ability of GN-CGS to maintain and restore the site during care and maintenance, closure and abandonment.

During the Board's assessment of the extent to which the Applicant has the ability to undertake the required monitoring and mitigation measures associated with the Amendment Application, the Board has noted the commitments of GN-CGS to update the existing monitoring program to monitor for potential effects associated with the change to the location of pumping to replenish Nipissar Lake from the Char River to Lower Landing Lake. With these changes to the relevant Page 26 of 42

terms and conditions in the Amended Licence, the Board is confident the Applicant will be able to continue to conduct the undertaking (as amended) in a manner that is protective of the freshwater environment.

#### Compensation of Existing or Other Users

The *NWNSRTA* requires that the NWB be satisfied that compensation of existing or other water users affected by the Amendment Application has been or will be paid.<sup>22</sup> To ensure that all parties with the potential to bring a water compensation claim have been notified of their rights under the *NWNSRTA*, the NWB provides, in the Notice of Application, an invitation to parties with water user compensation issues to advise the NWB regarding such issues. The Notice of the Application was issued by the Board on November 9, 2020, and in the Notice of Public Hearing, published by the Board on April 2, 2021, anyone having a water user compensation claim was advised to inform the Board of their interests in accordance with s. 55 of the *NWNSRTA*. The NWB confirms that no representations regarding a claim of compensation were made to the NWB in respect of this Amendment Application.

#### Issuance of a Licence

As stated above and pursuant to s. 42(1) of the *NWNSRTA*, the NWB has decided to issue an amended Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1631 subject to the terms and conditions set out in these Reasons for Decision and the attached Amended Licence. In deciding to issue the Amended Licence, the NWB is satisfied that the Amendment Application contained the required information and is in the proper form having regard to the requirements of the *NWNSRTA*<sup>23</sup> and associated Regulations.<sup>24</sup>

#### **Applications in Relation to the Licence**

Overall, the NWB is satisfied that the requirements of s. 48 of the *NWNSRTA* were met by the Applicant. The GN-CGS filed an Application which complied with the NWB's Rules, and was accompanied by the fees required by regulation including the application fee. Further, the Applicant has also provided the necessary application and supplementary information required to evaluate whether an amended licence should be granted and also to assess whether the amendments to the licence requested by the Applicant are reasonable and consistent with the objects of the Board as established under the *Nunavut Agreement* and the *NWNSRTA*.

#### **Application to Amend or Application for Future Modifications**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> See ss. 58-60 of the *NWNSRTA*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> See s. 48 of the *NWNSRTA*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Nunavut Waters Regulations, SOR/2013-69.

In relation to future applications to undertake significant modifications of the activities included within the scope of the Amended Application, the NWB reminds the Applicant that it must comply with all requirements of the *Nunavut Agreement*,<sup>25</sup> the *NuPPAA*,<sup>26</sup> and the *NWNSRTA*.<sup>27</sup> In particular, the Board notes that the scope of the authorized use of water use and deposit of waste is as provided by the GN-CGS in the Amendment Application and as set out in Part A of the Amended Licence, and any requested changes to that scope may require a further amendment to the Licence. In addition, any significant modifications to the undertaking are required to be submitted to the Nunavut Planning Commission and may subsequently be referred to the Nunavut Impact Review Board prior to the NWB's consideration of any future amendments to the Licence.

#### **Cancellation or Expiry of the Licence**

As identified above, the NWB reminds the Applicant that the provisions of s. 46 of the *NWNSRTA* states: "[t]he expiry or cancellation of a licence does not relieve the holder from any obligations imposed by the licence."

The Applicant is also reminded that pursuant to the NWB's authority under s. 43(1)(c)(iii) of the *NWNSRTA*, the NWB may, on application by a licensee, or on its own motion, cancel a licence at any time that the NWB considers the cancellation to be in the public interest.

#### **Term of Licence**

Under s. 45 of the *NWNSRTA* the NWB is required to ensure that the term of a licence shall not exceed the longer of twenty-five years or the "anticipated duration" of the undertaking. In the Amendment Application, the Applicant requested an extension to the remaining term of the Licence from expiry in 2024 to expiry in 2031. In February 2021, the Applicant requested that the amended term of the licence be extended by seven years, to reflect that the Hamlet's short-term focus is on plans for a significant upgrade/replacement of the wastewater treatment plant. In this regard, the Applicant has committed to filing an application to amend the Licence when sufficient resources have been secured and plans for the wastewater treatment plant upgrades have been finalized (currently planned for 2023-2024).

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) supported the extension of the term, provided that the Amended Licence include terms and conditions in the Amended Licence to require the Applicant to report on progress towards upgrading the wastewater treatment plant. The Applicant indicated that having a longer term under the Amended Licence would allow the Hamlet

<sup>27</sup> See s. 43 of the NWNSRTA.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> See Article 12, Clause 12.4.3 (b) of the NLCA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act S.C. 2013, c. 14 (NuPPAA).

to focus scarce resources more clearly on upgrading and improving the water and wastewater treatment infrastructure used by the Hamlet in fulfillment of the licence terms and conditions.

In the Board's view, the Applicant's very clear commitment to continuous improvement of facilities within the scope of the Amended Licence, justifies the extension of the Amended Licence and will enable the Applicant to focus on complying with the terms and conditions in the Licence rather than on efforts to renew the Licence in the short term.

Given these circumstances, the NWB is satisfied that an extension to the term to 2031 is appropriate.

#### **SECTION VII: WATER LICENCE: TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The Licence does not take effect until approval of the Minister is given or is deemed to have been given pursuant to s. 56 of the *NWNSRTA*. As indicated in Section VI, the Panel has decided to issue the amendments to Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624 (renumbered to reflect the extension of the term) as Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1631 subject to the conditions contained herein (Amended Licence).

To provide context and clarity, the NWB has provided the discussion and comments about specific terms and conditions that follow. The NWB has not, however, provided specific comments for those existing licence terms and conditions that have not been amended. The NWB has also not provided discussion of amendments that are not substantial and/or are clear in their wording and intent on the face of the Amended Licence.

#### PART A: Scope, Definitions and Enforcement

#### Scope

The scope of activities, works, and undertakings included under the Amended Licence is set out in Part A, and includes:

 Relocating the pumping station from Char River to Lower Landing Lake for replenishing Nipissar Lake during the open water season,

The issuance, amendment, renewal and cancellation of a type A licence, and if a public hearing is held, a Type B licence are subject to the approval of the Minister.

Under s. 56(2.2) if the Minister does not issue a decision within 45 days of receiving the Licence from the Board, (or within 90 days if the Minister has extended the decision-making period by an additional 45 days) the Minister is deemed to have approved the Licence.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Section 56 of the NWNSRTA states:

- Increasing the annual pumping volume from the source,
- subsequent removal of compliance point GRA-6 at Char River from the licence due to the relocation of pumping station,
- the removal of current quarterly reporting that must be submitted to the Nunavut Water Board four times/year,
- to discontinue submission of a water pumping adaptive management plan for the pumping of water to Nipissar Lake from Lower Landing Lake,
- a seven-year renewal of the existing water licence, to expire in 2031

#### **Definitions**

One definition were added to the list of definitions and three were revised for the Amended Licence to reflect the amendments from the previous Type "A" Water Licence. These definitions are listed in the section for Schedule A.

#### **PART B:** General Conditions

Part B of the Licence addresses many of the general terms and conditions that apply to the Undertaking, such as annual report submission, protocols for handling documents related to the Licence, posting of signage at sites associated with the Undertaking, and more. The revisions to the general conditions ensure that the terms and conditions of the Amended Licence in this Part are consistent with the other Type "A" Water Licences applicable to Municipal Undertakings previously issued by the NWB.

#### PART D: Conditions Applying to the Use of Waters and Water Management

Part D of the Licence focuses on water use and the related management plans. To ensure that the amount of water use authorized under the Amended Licence does not negatively impact freshwater resources, the Board has included several terms and conditions under Part D of the Water Licence designed to preserve the water sources.

The maximum volume of water use allowed from Nipissar Lake is the same as per the existing licence, 850,000 cubic metres per annum. The amendments to this part of the Licence involve changing the location of water withdrawal from Char River to Lower Landing Lake. The daily volume of water pumped has also been increased from 3,485 cubic metres (from Char River) to 10,000 cubic metres (from Lower Landing Lake) during the open water season.

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The NWB has included a condition<sup>29</sup> in this Licence to submit an updated Water Pumping Plan with the submission of the next Annual Report. This updated plan will include the changes in the pumping location, volumes and procedures. GN-CGS has stated in their final submission that an updated plan is being developed and will be submitted when available.

In the Amendment Application, GN-CGS had requested to remove the requirement to submit quarterly reports, and to submit only annual reports. This requirement was added in the existing Licence to align with the Fisheries Act Direction issued to GN-CGS by Environment and Climate Change Canada to monitor effluent quality at the wastewater treatment plant while completing a characterization study and a conceptual planning study. This direction was fulfilled as of September 2020, and therefore the quarterly reports are no longer required by ECCC. CIRNA and ECCC agreed that quarterly reporting was no longer necessary, hence this requirement has been removed from the Amended Licence.

#### PART E: Conditions Applying to Deposit of Waste and Waste Management

Part E of the Amendment Licence focuses on terms and conditions relevant to Waste management and the associated plans. It should be noted that, in contrast to other Municipal undertakings, the scope of this Type "A" Water Licence differs from the general scope as the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet has a separate Type "B" Water Licence (3BM-RAN2025) for its Solid Waste Disposal Facility and related infrastructure. The Solid Waste Disposal Facility and related infrastructure has historically been used for fire training, drum storage, sewage disposal, and bulky metal storage in the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet.

As recommended by CIRNA, the NWB has included a condition<sup>30</sup> in the Amended Licence to include an update covering the tentative schedule for steps towards upgrading the wastewater treatment plant in the 2021 Annual Report. This update will include the current status in the planning process, updates to timelines and explanations for deviations from the tentative schedule.

GN-CGS has provided the following tentative schedule in the 2020 Annual Report:

- 2021 Field studies
- 2022 Funding applications for design/build contract
- 2023 Award of design/build contract
- 2024 to 2025 Construction and commissioning

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Recommended by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) in their final submission, dated May 25, 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Recommended by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) in their final submission, dated May 25, 2021

GN-CGS has stated that the timelines stated above remain dependent on the receipt of adequate funding.

#### **PART F:** Conditions Applying to Modifications and Construction

While the scope of the Amended Licence does not include any new construction in the immediate term, the Applicant has indicated that there are plans for upgrading the wastewater treatment facility in the future. An updated schedule for upgrade will be included in the 2021 Annual Report. This activity would constitute a significant modification to the amended Type "A" Water Licence and may require the Applicant to apply to the NWB for an amendment to the Licence.

#### PART G: Conditions Applying to Operations and Maintenance

As this was an Amendment to the existing Type "A" Licence, Operation and Maintenance Plans (O&M) that were submitted and approved previously are still in use and no additional O&M Plans are being approved with the issuance of the Amended Licence. However, the NWB has included a condition in Part G of the Amended Licence to update the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan for the Water Supply Facility to account for the changes in the water supply system and related procedures.

#### PART H: Conditions Applying to Spill Contingency Planning

This Part of the Licence contains conditions for spill contingency planning. The Licensee has submitted the Plan entitled "Environmental Emergency Contingency Plan", dated April 2021 which is being approved by the Board along with the issuance of the Amended Licence.

#### PART I: Conditions Applying to Closure and Reclamation

No changes were requested with respect to the general Closure and reclamations requirements of the Licence. This section of the Amended Licence remains unchanged and generally requires that, at least six (6) months prior to commencing the decommissioning of a facility, the Licensee shall submit to the Board, for approval in writing, a Closure and Reclamation Plan prepared by an Engineer and in accordance with industry's best practices and relevant guidelines.

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#### PART J: Conditions Applying to Monitoring

With respect to the monitoring requirements under the Amended Licence, the NWB's jurisdiction is very broad and the NWB may include conditions in the licence related to monitoring programs to be undertaken.<sup>31</sup>

The monitoring station GRA-6 (Char River) is being removed from the Amended Licence, as this station will no longer provide relevant information, as the withdrawal location is moved to a new location, Lower Landing Lake. Additional criteria have been added to monitoring station GRA-7 (Lower Landing Lake) to include water level monitoring and daily withdrawal volumes during annual resupply to reflect this change in location.

The other Monitoring requirements imposed under the Licence were generally carried forward into the Amended Licence.

The Licensee has submitted the Plan entitled "Environmental Monitoring Program and Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan", dated April 2021 which was found acceptable by the Board.

#### Schedules A, B and J

Schedules A, B, and J have been revised to reflect the changes under the Amended Licence. The following sections outline the changes to the schedules included in the Amended Licence.

#### **Schedule A**

The Licence includes Schedule A: Definitions and the following definitions have been added/revised under the Amended Licence.

"<u>Application</u>" means, for the purposes of this License, the totality of the NWB Public Registry opened as a result of the filing of the application amend and renew the existing Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624;

"<u>Licence</u>" means this Type "A" Water Licence 3AM-GRA1631, issued by the Nunavut Water Board in accordance with the *Act*, to Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services for the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet;

"Nunavut Agreement" means the "Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada," including its preamble and schedules, and any amendments to that agreement made pursuant to it;

"Water Supply Facilities" means the areas and associated infrastructure at Nipissar Lake including the Lake, intake lines, pump house, underground pipeline and Williamson Lake water tank, and

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 $<sup>^{31}</sup>$  See s. 70(1)(c) of the *NWNSTRA*.

the areas and associated infrastructure at the Lower Landing Lake including the water intake and pipeline extending from Lower Landing Lake to Nipissar Lake as described in the Amendment Application for Water Licence dated September 16, 2020.

#### Schedule B

Schedule B applies to general and specific annual reporting requirements for the Undertaking. Most requirements in Schedule B have been carried over from the previous Licence. Items a, b, c and d have been updated to include the Monitoring Station IDs. Item (f) has been added after receiving a recommendation from CIRNA to include in the Licence, an update covering the tentative schedule for steps towards upgrading the Sewage Treatment Facility. The Licensee is required to submit a Memo along with the 2021 Annual Report.

#### Schedule J

This Schedule is linked to Part J of the Licence and the Conditions Applying to Monitoring. This Schedule includes updates or changes to the monitoring requirements as required to reflect the changes under the Amended Licence, taking into consideration the Applicant's requests, Intervener's recommendations, the Board's mandate and the scope of the Undertaking.

#### **Management Plans, Manuals and Reports**

Throughout the review of the Amendment Application, Interveners, the Board, and the Applicant have considered and commented, to various extents, on the following management plans, which were received during the Amendment Application process:

- Environmental Emergency Contingency Plan
- Environmental Monitoring Program and Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan

After completing the technical review of the Plans listed above as part of the Board's consideration of the Amendment Application, the Board has approved these Plans with the issuance of the Amended Licence. However, the Board also expects that in future, the Licensee will update the approved Plans as necessary to reflect updates to operations, such as changes to site infrastructure (e.g. new infrastructure is added, or existing infrastructure is modified or decommissioned).

#### **APPENDIX A - List of Acronyms**

CIRNA or CIRNAC	Crown-Indigenous Relations and	᠂᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘
	Northern Affairs (formerly INAC	$PbP_cC_d$ $VCVF_c$ $(C_pQQ_f/4LP_c$
	and AANDC)	ΓσረC⊳ሩ» ∇⊽Cυγጋρ٩ς¬¿)
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	ᢡᠲᢖᡄᡊᢣ <sup>ᡕ</sup> ᢂᡫᠴ ᢗᠬ᠌᠌᠌᠌ᠵᡥᡏ᠌᠌᠌᠌ᠵᠸᡊᢣ <sup>ᡕ</sup>
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	Environment and Climate Change Canada (former EC)	<i>₽</i>
ECCC		$\forall \lambda_c \lambda_d < \forall \alpha \in \forall \alpha $
	Canada (101111e1 EC)	EC-d <sup>c</sup> )
GN	Government of Nunavut	₽₽° P&F#P
NIRB	Nunavut Impact Review Board	ᠵᡏᡷ᠘᠊ᢙ᠍᠍ᢕ᠆ᠮ <i>ᠨ</i> ᠙᠐ᡏᡪᡒᡶᡕ
NPC	Nunavut Planning Commission	$\neg \sigma \gg_{r} L <_{c} \sigma \nabla \dot{\gamma}_{c}$
Nunavut	The Agreement Between the Inuit of	<sub>r</sub> C。ᡏ ላሌ5U。 Ç。٩f᠕∇¬∇。
Agreement	the Nunavut Settlement Area and	<u></u> <u> </u>
	Her Majesty the Queen in Right of	ᡆ᠊ᠬᡰ᠘ᠵ᠅ᠸᢆ᠇ᡆ᠂ᡏᡐᠬᠯᡧ᠙ᠾ᠅᠋᠌ᠫ᠅ᡔ᠋᠋
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	Assessment Act	₽⊳⊁∤₃₽√ √₃₽ċ
NWNSRTA	Nunavut Waters and Nunavut	۵۵° ۵LΔ° ⟨ЧL¬ ۵۵° ۵۵°
	Surface Rights Tribunal Act, S.C.	ᢐᡙᠣ ᠰᢋᢛ᠘ᠵ᠘ᠸ᠘ᢣᡕ᠘ᠰ᠉᠘ᢣᠺᡄᢅ
	2002, c. 10	$\Lambda^{\varsigma}d\flat^{\varsigma}$
NWB	Nunavut Water Board	ውσ≽L ∇Γ⊂ሆϧ <sub>c</sub> ρUΓታ <sub>σ</sub> L <sub>c</sub>
NWR or	Nunavut Waters Regulations,	ρσδ <sub>c</sub> ∇Γ∇ <sub>c</sub> Γ⊂ΓΩ <sub>c</sub>
Regulations	SOR/2013-69	
PH	Public Hearing	$\Delta$ $_{\sigma}$ $\sigma$ $\delta$ $\delta$
РНС	Due Heaving Confession	$\Delta$
	Pre-Hearing Conference	ᡋ᠐᠘᠐ᢗᠵᠣ᠌ᠫᢤᠻᠦᢝᡥ
TM	Technical Meeting	᠘ᢅᢖᠸᡥ᠘᠘᠘᠙᠘᠘
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#### **APPENDIX B - List of Submissions and Correspondence**

#### **Amendment Application:**

1. Cover letter and initial submission of water licence amendment for the Amendment to Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624 for moving the pumping station from Char River to Lower Landing Lake for pumping of additional water to Nipissar Lake during the open water season, increasing the annual pumping volume from the source, removing of compliance point GRA-6 from the licence due to this action, removing of current quarterly reporting, and discontinuing of submission of a water pumping adaptive management plan for the pumping of water to Nipissar Lake from Lower Landing Lake. September 16, 2020.

#### Initial Submission & Correspondence:

- 1. Submitted **September 16, 2020**, by Community & Government Services (CGS), RE: NPC File #149381 [3AM-GRA1624 Municipal Water Licence Amendment].
- 2. Submitted **September 16, 2020**, by CGS, RE: Nipissar Lake and Lower Landing Lake Water Balance Assessment.
- 3. Submitted **September 16, 2020**, by CGS, RE: NPC File # 148311, 3AM-GRA1624 GN-CGS Rankin Inlet Water Licence Amendment (dated June 19, 2016).
- 4. Submitted **September 16, 2020**, by CGS, RE: [NWB-NWB File # 3AM-GRA0207 Hamlet of Rankin Inlet Water/Sewage/Solid Waste/Land Farm Activities] (dated March 19, 2010).
- 5. Submitted **September 16, 2020**, by CGS. RE: 3AM-GRA1624 171103-13UN037-Screening Decision Report (dated November 3, 2017).
- 6. Submitted **September 16, 2020**, by CGS, RE: Diagram of Pipeline Extension to Lower Landing Lake.
- 7. Submitted **September 16, 2020**, by CGS, RE: wastewater treatment plant Upgrades Rankin Inlet: Final Report.
- 8. Submitted **September 16, 2020**, by CGS, RE: 3AM-GRA1624 2019 Annual Report.
- 9. Submitted **September 16, 2020**, by CGS, RE: Plan for Compliance 2020.

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- 10. Submitted **September 16, 2020**, by CGS, RE: Water Licence Amendment Application.
- 11. Submitted **September 16, 2020**, by CGS, RE: Map.
- 12. Submitted **September 16, 2020**, by CGS, RE: Project Summary English.
- 13. Submitted **September 16, 2020**, by CGS, RE: Project Summary Inuktitut.
- 14. Submitted **September 16, 2020**, by CGS, RE: Rankin Inlet Wastewater Effluent Study.
- 15. Letter to Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board (NWB), RE: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada completeness check on the Government of Nunavut-Community and Government Services amendment application for municipal undertakings-Hamlet of Rankin Inlet Water Licence 3AM-GRA1624, from Godowin Okonkwo, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNA), dated October 16, 2021.
- 16. Cover E-mail to Richard Dwyer, NWB, RE: Community & Government Services Water Distribution Utilidor System Rankin Inlet amendment application 3AM-GRA1624, from Anna Graham Environment Climate Change Canada (ECCC), dated October 19, 2020.
- 17. Letter to Sarah Collins, CGS, RE: Completeness Check for the Type 'A' Water Licence Amendment Application, File No: 3AM-GRA1624, Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services, from Derek Donald, NWB, dated **October 19**, **2020**.
- 18. Submitted **October 27, 2020**, by CGS, RE: Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624 COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES— WATER LICENCE AMENDMENT.
- 19. Cover E-mail to Richard Dwyer, Derek Donald, NWB, RE: 2010193AM-GRA1624 Completeness Check, from Godwin Okonkwo, CIRNA, dated **October 28, 2020**.
- 20. Letter to Sarah Collins, CGS, RE: Type "A" Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624; Application for Amendment to the Water Supply Facilities and associated Water Distribution Utilidor System; Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services, from Stephanie Autut, NWB, dated **November 9, 2020**.

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- 21. Cover E-mail to Sarah Collins, CGS, NWB Kivalliq Region E-mail Distribution list, RE: Rankin Inlet Utilidor Community & Government Services Amendment Application for water licence 3AM-GRA1624, from Richard Dwyer, NWB, dated November 9, 2020.
- 22. Letter to Richard Dwyer, NWB, RE: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's technical review of Government of Nunavut Community and Government Service's amendment application for water licence #3AM-GRA1624 for municipal undertakings Hamlet of Rankin Inlet, from Sarah Forte, CIRNA, dated **December 7**, 2020.
- 23. Letter to Richard Dwyer, NWB, RE: Rankin Inlet Utilidor Community & Government Services Amendment Application for water licence 3AM-GRA1624, from Lynn Dupuis, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), dated **December 7, 2020**.
- 24. Letter to Sarah Collins, CGS, RE: Technical Review of the Type 'A' Water Licence Amendment Application, File No: 3AM-GRA1624, Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services, from Derek Donald, NWB, dated **December 10, 2020**.
- 25. Submitted **December 21, 2020**, by CGS, RE: Nipissar Lake and Lower Landing Lake Water Balance Assessment.
- 26. Submitted **December 21, 2020**, by CGS, RE: Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624 KIVALLIQ REGION HAMLET OF Rankin Inlet WATER LICENSE AMENDMENT AND RENEWAL.
- 27. Cover E-mail to Sarah Collins, CGS, NWB Kivalliq Region E-mail Distribution list, RE: Rankin Inlet Utilidor Community & Government Services Amendment Application for water licence 3AM-GRA1624, from Richard Dwyer, NWB, dated **January 4, 2021**.
- 28. Letter to Sarah Collins, CGS, RE: Type "A" Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624; Amendment Application to relocate the Water Uptake Facilities from the Char River to Lower Landing Lake; Hamlet of Rankin Inlet's Municipal Water Licence; Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference Draft Agenda, from Richard Dwyer, NWB, dated February 1, 2021.

- 29. Cover E-mail to Sarah Collins, CGS, NWB Kivalliq Region E-mail Distribution list, RE: Hamlet of Rankin Inlet's Municipal Amendment Application to relocate the Water Uptake Facilities from the CharRiver to Lower Landing Lake for water licence 3AM-GRA1624, from Richard Dwyer, NWB, dated **February 1, 2021**.
- 30. Cover E-mail to Sarah Collins, CGS, NWB Kivalliq Region E-mail Distribution list, RE: Hamlet of Rankin Inlet's Municipal Amendment Application to relocate the Water Uptake Facilities from the CharRiver to Lower Landing Lake for water licence 3AM-GRA1624, from Richard Dwyer, dated **February 4, 2021**.
- 31. Letter to Sarah Collins, CGS, RE: Type "A" Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624; Amendment Application to relocate the Water Uptake Facilities from the Char River to Lower Landing Lake; Hamlet of Rankin Inlet's Municipal Water Licence; Update on Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference and Draft Agenda, from Richard Dwyer, NWB, dated **Feburary 4**, 2021.
- 32. Cover E-mail to Sarah Collins, CGS, NWB Kivalliq Region E-mail Distribution list, RE: Hamlet of Rankin Inlet's Municipal Amendment Application to relocate the Water Uptake Facilities from the CharRiver to Lower Landing Lake for water licence 3AM-GRA1624 (New technical meeting and pre-hearing conference), from Richard Dwyer, dated February 4, 2021.
- 34. Prepared **February 8, 2021**, by NWB, RE: Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Community Session Presentation, Regarding and Application for an amendment to Type "A" Water Licence 3AM-GRA1624 Hamlet of Rankin Inlet.
- 35. Cover E-mail to Richard Dwyer, NWB, RE: Hamlet of Rankin Inlet Technical Meeting 3AM-GRA1624, from Anna Graham, ECCC, dated **February 10, 2021**.
- 36. Cover E-mail to Richard Dwyer, NWB, RE: Hamlet of Rankin Inlet's Municipal Amendment Application to relocate the Water Uptake Facilities from the CharRiver to Lower Landing Lake for water licence 3AM-GRA1624, from Sarah Forte, CIRNA, dated **February 17, 2021**.

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- 37. Submitted **Febuary 17, 2021**, by CIRNA, RE: Summary of CIRNAC review of water licence 3AM-GRA1624 amendment application.
- 38. Submitted **February 18, 2021,** by CGS, RE: Nunavut Water Board Public Meeting, Water Licence Amendment Rankin Inlet 3AM-GRA-1624 February 18, 2021 (English).
- 39. Submitted **February 18, 2021,** by CGS, RE: Nunavut Water Board Public Meeting, Water Licence Amendment Rankin Inlet 3AM-GRA-1624 February 18, 2021 (English & Inuktitut)
- 40. Submitted **February 18, 2021,** by CGS, RE: ჲჲቃჼΓ Δἰϲーሲትና ቴ∩ἰλτίς ቴ∩ἰλτίς ቴ∩ἰλτίς ቴ∩ἰλτίς ቴ∩ἰλτίς τος 3ΑΜ-GRA-1624 ልቃላሲ 18, 2021.
- 41. Prepared **February 20, 2021,** by NWB, RE: Δας ΔΓς ασίμο βΩλλος ΔΕΔεσί βΩΕλος ΔΕΔεσί "A" ΔΓίμο Λιανο 3AM GRA1624 Δας Κολί βλιανος ΔΕΔεσί "A" ΔΓίμο ΔΕΔεσί "A" ΔΕζί "A" Δ
- 42. Letter to Sarah Collins, CGS, RE: Type "A" Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624; Amendment Application to relocate the Water Uptake Facilities from the Char River to Lower Landing Lake; Hamlet of Rankin Inlet's Municipal Water Licence; Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference Final Agenda, from Richard Dwyer, NWB, dated February 22, 2021.
- 43. Cover E-mail to Sarah Collins, CGS, RE: Hamlet of Rankin Inlet's Municipal Amendment Application to relocate the Water Uptake Facilities from the CharRiver to Lower Landing Lake for water licence 3AM-GRA1624, from Richard Dwyer, NWB, dated **February 22, 2021**.
- 44. Cover E-mail to Richard Dwyer, NWB, RE: Shawn Maley Contact Info, from Shawn Maley, public citizen, dated **February 22, 2021**.
- 45. Submitted **February 25, 2021,** by CGS, RE: Draft List of Commitments Technical Meeting for Water Licence No. 3AM-GRA1625 Amendment Application.

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- 46. Cover E-mail to Richard Dwyer, NWB, RE: Hamlet of Rankin Inlet Amendment Application to relocate the Water Uptake Facilities from the Char River toLower Landing Lake for water licence 3AM-GRA1624 (Commitments List CGS Comments) from Sarah Collins, CGS, dated **February 25, 2021**.
- 47. Cover E-mail to Richard Dwyer, Derek Donald, Karen Kharatyan, Teresa Meadows, NWB, Sarah Collins, Megan Muckpah-Gavin, Mhewey, CGS, Sarah Forte, CIRNA, RE: Draft List of Commitments Technical Meeting for Water Licence No. 3AM-GRA1625Amendment Application (CIRNA Edits), from Bridget Campbell CIRNA, dated **February 25, 2021**.
- 48. Prepared **February 25, 2021,** by NWB, RE: LIST OF ISSUES TECHNICAL MEETING AND PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE 3AM-GRA1624.
- 49. Submitted **March 01, 2021,** by CGS, RE: wastewater treatment plant Upgrades Rankin Inlet: Final Report.
- 50. Cover E-mail to Derek Donald, Karen Kharatyan, Richard Dwyer, NWB, RE: question about Rankin Inlet (3AM-GRA1624) water licence amendment, from Sarah Collins, CIRNA, dated **March 1, 2021**.
- 51. Submitted **March 01, 2021,** by CGS, RE: Rankin Inlet Wastewater Effluent Study.
- 52. Submitted **March 01, 2021,** by CGS, RE: Water License 3AM-GRA1624 Amendment Application: Supplemental Information Government of Nunavut Community and Government Services March 1, 2020.
- 53. Memo prepared by NWB, **March 25, 2021**, to Rankin Inlet Distribution List, RE: Type "A" Water Licence Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Regarding an Application to Amend Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624.
- 54. Cover E-mail to Sarah Collins, CGS, NWB E-mail Distribution List for Kivalliq Region, RE: Amendment Application to relocate the Water Uptake Facilities from the Char River to Lower Landing Lake Pre-Hearing Conference Decision for water licence 3AM-GRA1624, from Richard Dwyer, NWB, dated **March 25, 2021**.

- 55. Submitted **May 25, 2021,** by CIRNA, RE: Final Written Submission Nunavut Water Board Water Licence Application Review for Licence 3AM-GRA1624 Government of Nunavut Community and Government Services Hamlet of Rankin Inlet Utilidor.
- 56. Cover E-mail to Sarah Collins, CGS, RE: Amendment Application to relocate the Water Uptake Facilities from the Char Riverto Lower Landing Lake Pre-Hearing Conference Decision for water licence 3AM-GRA1624, from Richard Dwyer, NWB, dated May 25, 2021.
- 57. Submitted **May 31, 2021,** by CGS, FINAL SUBMISSION 3AM-GRA1624 Licence Application May 31, 2021 Community and Government Services Government of Nunavut Amendment application for the resupply location and accompanying licence requirements.
- 58. Letter to Rankin Inlet Distribution List, RE: Closure of the Public Hearing Record of the Written Public Hearing Associated with the Nunavut Water Board's processing of an Amendment Application to Type "A" Water Licence No: 3AM-GRA1624, filed by the Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services, from Stephanie Autut, NWB, dated **June 4, 2021**.
- 59. Cover E-mail to Sarah Collins, CGS, Nunavut Water Board Kivalliq Region E-mail Distribution List, Closure of the Public Hearing Record of the Written Public Hearing for 3AM-GRA1624 Amendment Water Licence Application, from Richard Dwyer, NWB, dated **June 4, 2021**.