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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD  
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI  
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

**File: 3AM-IQA1626 /  
Emergency Amendment Request**

July 11, 2019

Amy Elgersma  
Chief Administrative Officer  
City of Iqaluit  
P.O. Box 460  
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Email: [A.Elgersma@city.iqaluit.nu.ca](mailto:A.Elgersma@city.iqaluit.nu.ca)

**Subject: July 10, 2019 Request to Process Amendment to NWB Water Licence Type  
“A” No. 3AM-IQA1626 to Authorize Immediate Pumping from Additional  
Temporary Water Sources on an Emergency Basis**

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Dear Ms. Elgersma:

By way of this correspondence, the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) acknowledges receipt of the City of Iqaluit’s request to amend Type “A” Water Licence No. 3AM-IQA1626 (Licence) for a Municipal Undertaking as defined under Schedule 1 of the *Nunavut Waters Regulations*, SOR/2013-69. The request seeks an amendment to authorize temporary additional water use (pumping to replenish the City of Iqaluit’s Geraldine Lake Reservoir) from specified water sources in the summer and fall of 2019. As indicated in the July 10, 2019 correspondence:

*... the City of Iqaluit (the City) is facing a shortage of potable water for the upcoming 2019-2020 winter, and ...is requesting the Nunavut Water Board (NWB)’s immediate approval to supplement the Lake Geraldine reservoir from the Apex (Niaqunguk) River, and possibly other sources. The situation arises because the reservoir has not recharged following spring melt and will not be full prior to freeze-up. Ongoing dry conditions have resulted in flows in local watersheds at or near historic lows.<sup>1</sup>*

The NWB highlights, as did the City of Iqaluit that the NWB is currently processing the City of Iqaluit’s amendment application to authorize the additional water use (2019-2026) (the Amendment Application), with that Amendment Application set down to proceed to an in-person

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<sup>1</sup> Correspondence from A. Elgersma, City of Iqaluit to L. Toomasie, NWB Chairperson, July 10, 2019.

Public Hearing in the City of Iqaluit on August 8 and 9, 2019. However, the NWB recognizes that the decision-making required of both the NWB and the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) in respect of the Amendment Application would not be completed until after the potential pumping window for the additional water sources may have closed in the fall of 2019.

Consequently, the NWB is currently considering whether to recommend to the Minister that the City of Iqaluit’s short term amendment request for the 2019 pumping season constitutes emergency circumstances as set out in ss. 52(2)(c), 55(5) and 56 of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 10 (NWNSTRA). If the Board recommends and the Minister agrees that the City of Iqaluit’s request constitutes emergency circumstances, the Board may waive the normal notice, public hearing and comment requirements typically associated with the Board’s consideration of an application to amend a Type “A” Water Licence. Given the urgent nature of this matter, the Board’s duly appointed decision-making panel will meet as soon as possible to consider the City of Iqaluit’s emergency amendment request and will issue appropriate correspondence to the Minister and further direction from the Board shortly.

In the interim, the Board highlights for parties that regardless of the Board’s disposition of the City of Iqaluit’s short term amendment request, the NWB will be proceeding to an in-person Public Hearing on August 8 and 9, to consider the longer term Amendment Application (2019-2026 requested). As noted by the City of Iqaluit:

*The City understands the importance of a public review, and supports continuing with the public hearing process to amend its Type A Licence as they apply to the remainder of the term of the licence (to 2026).*

Participants in the Board’s upcoming Public Hearing are requested to consult the timelines for submissions in advance of the Public Hearing as set out in the NWB’s email cover of today’s date, that accompanied the City of Iqaluit’s emergency amendment request of July 10, 2019.

Sincerely,

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Stephanie Autut  
Nunavut Water Board, Executive Director

cc. Mayor Redfern, City of Iqaluit  
Deputy Mayor Stevenson, City of Iqaluit  
Matthew Hamp, Director Public Works and Engineering  
Josip Deronja, Acting Engineering Manager  
Erica Bonhomme, Nunami-Stantec  
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