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June 12, 2009

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Our file: 4782 012 NWB file: 3AM-IQA0611

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Via email at: licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org

Re: NWB – Application for Amendment to Type A Water License 3AM-IQA0611

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the information submitted with the above-mentioned application. The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, Section 36(3) of the Fisheries Act, the Migratory Birds Convention Act, and the Species at Risk Act.

Background

The City of Iqaluit (City) has applied for an amendment to their existing Type A water license. The City has requested the reconsideration of 12 items from the existing Water License 3AM-IQA0611. The Nunavut Water Board (Board) has determined that the application is incomplete and additional information is required prior to the reconsideration of the current Water License. In the interim, the Board is requesting interested parties to comment on the type and form of public hearing, relevance of information deficiencies identified by the Nunavut Water Board, additional information required for the review and other relevant matters.

Type and Form of Public Hearing

Once all information is received by the Board, Environment Canada would be satisfied with a prehearing conference and technical meeting held by teleconference, and either a written hearing or a public hearing held in Igaluit, Nunavut.

Relevance of Information Deficiencies Identified by the Nunavut Water Board

Environment Canada believes that the submission of items listed as bullets i, ii, and iii, in the letter from the Board dated May 20, 2009, is necessary to evaluate the amendment requests for items relating to sewage effluent quality criteria and landfill leachate/runoff management. Additionally, the Board has also identified numerous license requirements which have yet to be completed or submitted by the City in the Assessment for Administrative Compliance for Municipal Water Licence Amendment for the City of Iqaluit, dated April 20, 2009. EC will not be providing technical comments on the amendment request until all the supplemental information requested has been supplied by the City.

Additional Information

The City has requested that the Board review Part E, Item 3 of the current Water License, to reconsider the current effluent criteria for the discharge of the wastewater treatment plant. City states that they would not be able to comply with the current effluent criteria until the commissioning of Phase 2 of the wastewater treatment plant. EC believes that the City should provide the Board with a proposed plan for the implementation of Phase 2 activities with firm deadlines and funding commitments, to be submitted to the Board for approval.

Conclusion

EC would be pleased to participate further in the review of this project once all information has been provided by the City to the Board. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4631 or by email at carrie.spavor@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Carrie Spavor Environmental Assessment Coordinator

c.c: Carey Ogilvie (Head, Environmental Assessment-North, EPO, Yellowknife, NT)
Anne Wilson (Water Pollution Specialist, EPO, Yellowknife, NT)

