



Mr. Brad Sokach  
Director of Engineering  
City of Iqaluit  
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April 27, 2004

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N5L3-0087 (expired)

**Re: The City of Iqaluit's response to the Water Licence Inspection Report Dated March 11, 2004**

Dear Mr. Sokach;

I appreciate your commitment to addressing the issues identified in the Inspection Report. I will attempt to clarify both the issues raised in the Inspection Report and INAC's position on gravel extraction in the North 40.

The report states that further work needs to be done on segregation of lead acid batteries. A number of the batteries were stacked in the landfill with unsegregated waste. These batteries need to be removed from the general refuse pile and placed in the hazardous waste storage area. Measures also need to be put in place to contain waste acid and leachable heavy metals from the batteries piled in the hazardous material storage area. Information on appropriate storage of waste batteries is available from the Government of Nunavut, Department of Sustainable Development in the *Environmental Guideline for Waste Batteries*.

At the time of the inspection there were a number of pressurized gas cylinders (propane and other unidentified cylinders) in the general waste side of the landfill. These cylinders are classified as hazardous waste and need to be dealt with according to the *Nunavut Hazardous Waste Management Manual* i.e. a cylinder storage facility for the storage of large compressed gas cylinders.

Your letter states that there is no evidence of metal contamination in the sand and gravel currently being extracted from the site. What testing has been done to substantiate this opinion? In the years since the ESG Report, waste drums have been removed from the site but there has also been substantial disturbance of waste. I could find no record of soil or water testing performed at the site after the clean-up (aside from water sampling performed by INAC). Does the City have any records demonstrating that soil was excavated in the North 40 for the purpose of reclamation or disposal in a hazardous waste facility? If records exist, I would appreciate it if a copy could be forwarded to the Nunavut Field Operations Office.

Nunavut Water  
Board

MAY

Public Registry

I agree that the ESG Report does not suggest widespread heavy metal contamination in the North 40. However, as the waste in the North 40 is unclassified, to the extent that there are unknown waste disposal sites in the area, the potential for the disturbance and release of contaminants is unacceptably high. I do not agree that the 1995 ESG Report supports the continued use of the North 40 as a granular source for the City. It is clearly stated on page V-79 of the ESG Report that;

***“The North 40 Dump is currently the primary source of granular material for the town. This activity is in conflict with waste disposal activities also undertaken at the site.”***

It is our opinion that the metal dump needs to be decommissioned, to comply with Territorial and Canadian Guidelines. Accordingly, an Abandonment and Restoration plan for the North 40 Dump needs to be submitted as soon as possible to the Nunavut Water Board for approval.

The City has proposed a number of measures to allow continued gravel extraction in the North 40. These measures are focussed on diverting Carney Creek around the site, lowering the water table to increase access to granular material, and consolidating and capping the metal waste at an alternate site to allow further access to granular material. These measures would likely be an important part of any Abandonment and Restoration Plan for the area. Prior to consolidation of the metal waste the city must identify and segregate all hazardous waste in the North 40. This would have to occur for both the waste pile and all other areas of gravel extraction. If there is buried waste in the area (i.e. drums of diesel fuel) that could be disturbed by gravel extraction, it must be identified and dealt with before extraction can continue. Prior to continuing gravel extraction in the area of the waste pile heavy metal and hydrocarbon sampling would need to be performed. Depending on the different types of hazardous waste identified in the waste pile further sampling may be required. If contaminants are discovered, appropriate soil reclamation must be undertaken.

The City will be held responsible, under the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act, for any contaminants released during the clean-up. If the City completes the clean-up and a release of contaminants occurs in the course of gravel extraction they will again be held responsible under the Act. The historical use of the site can not be used as a defence in the event of a spill.

The City currently has a Quarry Administration Agreement originally signed with the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, valid until July 1, 1997. However, the City has not complied with the terms of the agreement. The City has not developed a quarry management plan that includes consideration of the environmental effects of gravel extraction in the North 40. Furthermore, the presence of the agreement does not allow the City to operate outside of other Territorial and Canadian legislation. Specifically, the NWNSRTA and the Fisheries Act. The City needs to develop a Quarry Management Plan including plans for the development of an alternative granular source for the City of Iqaluit.

To summarize, the City of Iqaluit needs to deal with waste batteries and gas cylinders in the landfill according to Territorial Guidelines. The City of Iqaluit also needs to submit an Abandonment and Restoration Plan to the Nunavut Water Board for approval before continuing gravel extraction in the North 40. The City should also develop a Quarry Management Plan, including plans for the development of an alternative source of granular material.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me.

Sincerely,



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c.c.

- Nunavut Water Board, Gjoa Haven (Dionne Filiatrault)
- CG&S, Iqaluit (Doug Sitland)
- EC Environmental Protection, Iqaluit (Sid Bruinsma)
- DFO Habitat Management, Iqaluit (Keith Pelley)
- GNU, Sustainable Development (Ian Rumbolt)