

Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Prairie & Northern Region
5019 52nd Street, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 2310
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7

ECCC File: 6200 000 001/011
NWB File: 3AM-IQA1626



October 5, 2022

via email at: licensing@nwb-oen.ca

Richard Dwyer
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Dear Richard Dwyer:

RE: 3AM-IQA1626 – City of Iqaluit – 2021 Annual Water License Report

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has reviewed the information submitted to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) regarding the above-mentioned annual report.

ECCC is providing technical, science-based information and knowledge based on our mandate pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* and the pollution prevention provisions of the *Fisheries Act*. These comments are intended to inform the assessment of this project's potential effects in the receiving environment and on valued ecosystem components. Any comments received from ECCC in this context does not relieve the proponent of its obligations to respect all applicable federal legislation.

The following comments are provided:

1. Topic: WWTP sludge

Reference(s)

- City of Iqaluit 2021 Annual Report for Water Licence 3AM-IQA1626

Comment:

The 2021 Annual Report (Section D) notes that an annual total of approximately 288 cubic metres of WWTP sludge was deposited at the West 40 Landfill. However, the report does not indicate whether sludge was characterized prior to disposal in the landfill.



ECCC Recommendation(s):

ECCC recommends that WWTP sludge be characterized and managed/disposed appropriately. Future annual reports should indicate whether WWTP sludge is characterized prior to disposal, and provide any accompanying monitoring results. If sludge is not characterized prior to landfilling, ECCC recommends that it be encapsulated.

2. Topic: Wastewater Treatment Plant

Reference(s)

- City of Iqaluit 2021 Annual Report for Water Licence 3AM-IQA1626

Comment:

The 2021 Annual Report (Section G) notes that the City of Iqaluit continued to work through outstanding deficiencies and operational issues with the Wastewater Treatment Plant's primary and secondary treatment systems, and anticipates this work to continue into 2022.

ECCC notes that wastewater effluent quality has been highly variable and does not meet secondary treatment targets. Improvements in effluent quality need to be pursued on a priority basis, especially given the resources that have been directed to date toward attaining acceptable treatment levels.

ECCC Recommendation(s):

ECCC recommends that the City of Iqaluit provide a summary of actions to be taken to achieve acceptable wastewater effluent quality, including a timeline and commitment to completing.

3. Topic: Rainbow Trout Bioassay

Reference(s)

- City of Iqaluit 2021 Annual Report for Water Licence 3AM-IQA1626

Comment:

The water licence requires annual bioassay testing (Rainbow trout) following commissioning (which effectively occurred June 2021). However, the annual report does not indicate whether bioassay testing was conducted during 2021.

ECCC Recommendation(s):

ECCC recommends that annual bioassay testing (Rainbow trout) be conducted in accordance with the water licence and results provided in the annual report.

If you need more information, please contact Jennifer Sabourin at Jennifer.Sabourin@ec.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Sabourin', written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Sabourin
Environmental Assessment Officer

Attachment(s):

cc: Jody Small, Acting Head, Environmental Assessment North (NT and NU)