



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

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Nunavut Regional Office
Operations Directorate
Water Resources Division
P.O. Box 100
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11 May 2009

Via Email

Phyllis Beaulieu
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0E 1J0

**Subject Water License #3BC-BRI—, New Application, Jason Briner
(University of Buffalo), Joint Baffin Island Climate Change
Project, Qikiqtani Region**

Dear Phyllis,

Please be advised that on behalf of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, I have completed a review of the above referenced water license application submitted by Jason Briner on behalf of the University of Buffalo and University of Colorado.

A Technical Review Memorandum (attached) is provided to the Board for consideration.

Should you have any questions regarding this submission, feel free to contact me at 867-975-4555 or David.Abernethy@inac-ainc.gc.ca.

Regards,
David W. Abernethy

Cc. Kevin Buck, Water Resources Division Manager

Technical Review Memorandum

Date: May 11/09

To: Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board

From: David Abernethy, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Water Resources Division, Iqaluit, NU

Re: **Water License #3BC-BRI---- – Jason Briner (University of Buffalo) – Joint Baffin Island Climate Change Project – New Application**

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On Apr. 27/09 the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) distributed the Apr. 4/09 water license application submitted by Jason Briner of the University of Buffalo, requesting representations from interested parties by May 27/09.

This Project requires a Type B water license to support research activities that will be performed by the University of Buffalo and University of Colorado to analyse climate change on pre-historic timescales. Rock and lake sediment samples will be collected from “the northern interior of Baffin Island (east of Mary River and the northern Barnes Ice Cap Region), the Clyde River Region, and Broughton Island Region.” Small temporary camps capable of accommodating four (4) people will be established, or when practical, cabins will be rented to support field work. Spring camps will be accessed by snowmobile and summer camps will be accessed by helicopter or boat.

The following documents were made available for review:

- Water License Application Form;
- Exploration/Remote Camp Supplementary Questionnaire;
- Spill Contingency Plan;
- Project Summary, English and Inuktitut; and,
- Map of Study Area.

B. RESULTS OF REVIEW

The following comments / recommendations are provided for the Board's consideration:

1. General

- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) suggests that the NWB apply standard water license terms and conditions applicable to temporary research and exploration camps to this water license.
- The submitted cover letter states that field work associated with this project will be carried out until August 31, 2011. INAC recommends that the water license have a Dec. 31/2011 expiry date.

2. Annual Reporting

- Item #5 of the submitted questionnaire states that there will be “different tent camps at different places each year.” The Board should require Mr. Briner to identify the locations of all temporary camps and cabins used to support project activities, in addition to their dates of occupancy, in annual reporting submissions (a map denoting locations would be adequate).

3. Waste Disposal

- Item #32 of the submitted questionnaire states that camp greywater will be buried. The water license should include a term / condition that requires all camp greywater be discharged into sumps designed and situated in such a manner that prevent the direct release of any effluent into nearby water sources.

4. Spill Contingency Planning

- Mr. Briner should be required to revise the submitted Spill Contingency Plan to include the following points:
 - A cover page addressed to the NWB;
 - The name, address, and job title of the person on charge of this project;
 - The name(s), job title(s), and 24-hour telephone number for the persons responsible for activating the Spill Contingency Plan;
 - A description of the temporary camps / cabins used to support field work associated with this project;
 - A description of the type and amount of petroleum-hydrocarbon products normally stored at temporary camps / cabins;
 - A description of preventative measures that will be implemented to ensure there are no spills or spillage when fueling equipment;
 - A site map of the project area;
 - A description of the training provided to project personnel to respond to a spill;

- An inventory of the clean-up equipment / supplies available to implement the spill contingency plan;
- The date the Spill Contingency Plans was prepared / revised; and,
- A copy of the Government of Nunavut Spill Report Form.

5. Abandonment and Reclamation Planning

- Mr. Briner should be required to submit an Abandonment and Reclamation Plan specific to this project. This Plan should outline standard operation procedures followed when closing a temporary camp or exiting a cabin. This Plan must address the reclamation of sumps used for the disposal of camp greywater as well as the treatment (disposal) of solid wastes.