

Arctic Bay Water Licence Application

Executive Summary

The Hamlet of Arctic Bay has recently identified the need to upgrade their existing solid waste and sewage disposal sites, located approximately 2.5 kilometers southwest of the community. Currently, these sites are insufficient to meet the projected 20-year capacity of the community. Furthermore, problems associated with untreated seepage of raw sewage into Arctic Bay and of the containment of solid waste within the landfill site continue to persist.

Background

In 1997, the Department of Public Works and Services, Baffin Region, retained Reid Crowthers to complete a design brief for the sewage treatment system and solid waste sites. To date, the Hamlet has only initiated improvements to the solid waste site based on recommendations outlined in this report.

In 1999, on behalf of the Department of Public Works and Services, Baffin Region, Dillon Consulting submitted a conceptual design for wetland sewage treatment that incorporated the current sewage disposal site. Improvements to the sewage disposal and wetland treatment areas included an ice-pack holding cell, a series of three berms to allow for temporary ponding, and a re-direction berm that will alter the flow path of runoff drainage. Upgrades to the wetland treatment site are scheduled to begin by summer 2002.

Regulatory Process

The regulation, use and management of water in the Nunavut Settlement Area is the responsibility of the Nunavut Water Board (NWB). According to the NWT Waters Act and the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, each community is required to have a water license, which describes the intended use of water and water resources in each community. To date, the community of Arctic Bay does not hold a water license.

Following the final approval of the amendment by the NWB, upgrades to the sewage disposal site will begin. Routine monitoring of surface and groundwater conditions will likely be required to ensure that contaminants are not leaching from the solid waste site and that the wetland treatment facility is operating effectively.