



Environment Environnement  
Canada Canada

Environmental Protection Branch  
Qimugjuk Building 969 P.O. Box 1870  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0  
Tel: (867) 975-4639  
Fax: (867) 975-4645

June 8, 2004

Our file: 4782 029

Phyllis Beaulieu  
Manager of Licensing  
Nunavut Water Board  
P.O. Box 119  
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0  
Tel: (867) 360-6338  
Fax: (867) 360-6369

Via Email at [licensing@nwb.nunavut.ca](mailto:licensing@nwb.nunavut.ca)

**RE: NWB3ARC – Emergency Amendment – Sewage Lagoon**

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the information submitted with the above-mentioned emergency amendment application. The Government of Nunavut, Community Government Services (CGS), has applied for an emergency amendment to their current water license in order to carry out remedial work at the sewage lagoon in Arctic Bay. Work to be completed includes reinforcing and expanding the south berm of the winter lagoon, constructing additional retention berms and increasing the height on the existing retention berms, adding fill to the existing road to prevent overtopping and encourage drainage, clearing of existing culverts, installation of additional culverts, and encouraging drainage between the summer lagoon and the winter lagoon.

Based on a conversation with Mr. Doug Sitland (CGS) on June 4, 2003, it has come to Environment Canada's attention that the work at this site has already been completed. While EC appreciates the urgent nature of this request, it is necessary for proponents to receive approval from the Nunavut Water Board for undertakings prior to their commencement. While EC was prepared to submit comments on this application related to our mandated responsibilities under Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, given that the work is completed, EC sees no value in submitting these comments at this time. Rather, we would be willing to review the "as built" plans and other related works that were completed and provide comments on the effectiveness of the modifications and whether increased monitoring is now required.

As the events that have lead up to current situation with respect to the sewage lagoon in Arctic Bay have been apparent for some time, Environment Canada recommends that CGS, in cooperation with the Hamlet of Arctic Bay, implement water conservation measures to help prevent such a situation from occurring again. Such conservation measures will help to extend the storage capacity of the lagoon and help to prevent such emergency amendments from being required in the future. Wastewater management practices within Nunavut should foster proactive rather than reactionary approaches to addressing wastewater issues.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4639 or by email at [colette.meloche@ec.gc.ca](mailto:colette.meloche@ec.gc.ca).

Yours truly,

***Original signed by***

Colette Meloche  
Environmental Assessment / Contaminated Sites Specialist

cc: (Paula Pacholek, Northern Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Environment Canada, Yellowknife)  
(Anne Wilson, Water Quality Specialist, Environment Canada, Yellowknife)  
(Jim Wall, Technical Advisor, Nunavut Impact Review Board, Cambridge Bay)