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**Environment Canada
Environmental
Protection Branch**

Fax

To: Dionne Filiatrault	From: Stephen Harbicht
Fax: (403) 360-6369	Pages: 1
Phone: (403) 360-6338	Date: September 22, 1997
Re: Baker Lake Water Quality Study	CC:

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• **Comments:** Dionne I remembered reviewing this document a while ago for DIAND so I have pasted that letter (with some minor corrections) here for your consideration.

The stations established for this study concentrates on water quality from sites that were sampled from above Finger Lake to Baker Lake. The study interpretations of the data suggests that the treatment area includes Finger Lake and the stream down to Airplane Lake. As both of these lakes contain fish, bioassays should have been conducted to evaluate the level of toxicity associated with the water flowing into each lake. If toxicity is apparent then it is essential that further treatment be added to the system.

The report did not identify whether there were recreational activities associated with Finger or Airplane Lake. If either of these lakes are used for recreational activity then the level of protection required for each must be established.

I would also suggest that for any health related recommendations provided in this report, they should have the Dept. of Health and Welfare concurrence.

Statements provided in the report should have supportive information; for example, the explanation for elevated levels of Phenols in the treated water resulting from fuel inadvertently released into the water during fuel resupply should have been supported with documentation from the Spill Line.

The question of where the contaminants originate from is still unanswered. To answer this question further evaluation could be conducted on the drainage that originates from each disposal site (both abandon and current). The drainage path from each disposal site should also be identified thus providing information which could be used in developing treatment options if required.

If you have any concerns regarding the above please contact me at 669-4733.

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