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File: 4782 015 BAKER LAKE

February 3, 1998

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**Improvements to Existing Water Intake and Pumphouse Baker Lake.  
Predesign Report, November 28, 1997**

I am responding to your letter, dated 8 January 1998, requesting comments on the Predesign Report: Improvements to Existing Water Intake and Pumphouse Baker Lake, dated November 28, 1997. The Environmental Protection Branch of Environment Canada is pleased to offer the following comments and recommendations:

1. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has published guidelines on recommended sizes for the intake screens described on Page 15 of the Predesign Report - *Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guideline, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, March 1995*. The Yellowknife office of DFO can provide a copy of the guideline and further advice on the topic.
2. Starting on Page 18, the Predesign Report considers the best means of protecting the intake pipe at the lakeshore where ice may cause damage. Whether rip-rap or burial is used, the timing of the installation work will be an important factor in reducing environmental impacts associated with the project. We recommend installation occur when ice is present. This should reduce sedimentation in the water caused by the pipe burial activities or deposition of rip-rap. As well, during the winter months, there should be less disruption to aquatic life and consolidation of sediments in the ice and snow.



3. The Predesign Report identifies an existing diesel-electric generating station and fuel tank (Page 6, Figure 4.11). We recognize that the project does not propose to change that system. However, if not already bermed, this improvement project offers a good opportunity to upgrade the facility to an environmentally safe standard by installing a spill containment structure for the fuel tank.
4. The Predesign Report does not describe reclamation measures for the existing intake pipe. We recommend the project include the removal of the existing intake pipe from the lake bottom as well as any other supporting metallic structures not required or usable in the new intake system.

Should you have questions or require more information on our comments and recommendations, please call me at (867) 669-4737.



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Environmental Protection Branch

c. Mr. Stephen Harbicht