

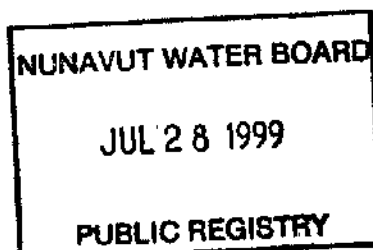
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July 28, 1999

Dionne Fillatraut  
Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Water Board  
Box 119  
Goa Haven, NT  
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**Re: Hamlet of Baker Lake, Water Licence Renewal  
NWB2BAK**

On behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Habitat Management, (DFO-HM)  
I have reviewed the information submitted for the above water licence renewal.

I offer the following comments:

**Signage**

Several locations were missing the proper signage, such as the water supply facility and the sewage treatment facilities.

*It is recommended by DFO-HM that the appropriate signs be posted.*

**Solid Waste Disposal**

On page 8 under waste reduction, it states that there is a community by-law which allows people to burn garbage at their homes. Whether open burning is taking place at the land fill site or in peoples yards, this is not a recommended method for managing garbage. Open burning is a potential health risk to wildlife and humans and is a safety concern. Emission from burning garbage, such as dioxins and metals, are released into the air and are transported to the surrounding land and water.

*It is recommended by DFO-HM that the Hamlet of Baker Lake review the existing by-law which allows people to burn their own garbage. It is also recommended that new*

*technologies be investigated for managing solid waste and phase out the practise of open burning.*

### **Hazardous Wastes Disposal Area**

The application states that hazardous waste is stored in a water tank which has been cut in half. It appears that this container is a "catch all" for paints, aerosol containers and household hazardous materials. What is done with the materials once they are placed in this container?

*DFO-HM recommends that a contingency plan be submitted describing the long-term disposal plan for hazardous materials. Is the Hamlet able to ship the waste to a facility down south for proper disposal? The review of the Operations and Maintenance Manual for Baker Lake prepared by Patricia Renaud offers some useful suggestions for managing hazardous waste.*

*Check  
cont. Plan  
of O&M.*

### **Waste Oil**

The practice of disposing waste oil into drums and placing them within the waste oil pit is unacceptable. Over time these drums of oil will develop leaks which will leach into the surrounding area and may reach local water bodies.

*DFO-HM recommends that this practice be stopped and all waste oil be disposed of in the waste oil furnace. If this is not a viable option the Hamlet will have to look at alternative disposal methods. Any waste oil which has been previously buried should be excavated for proper disposal.*

### **General Comments**

Figure 2 and 3 shows discharge from the refuse disposal area draining into Finger Lake.

*DFO-HM recommends that an SNP station be added at this site to identify any contaminants from the Land fill site which may be leaching into Finger Lake. Samples could be taken opportunistically during spring freshet or heavy rainfall when there is an apparent source of water. This will be useful in differentiating the composition of the discharge from the wetlands area from that of the landfill site.*

Please note that none of the foregoing should be taken as authorization of the undertaking in accordance with the Fisheries Act or any other legislation.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments with respect to the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,



Margaret Keast

Habitat Management Biologist, Nunavut Area

cc. Gary Weber, Area Manager, DFO - Nunavut Area

cc. Winston Fillatre, Fishery Officer, DFO - Nunavut Area