

MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

TO
A

Andre Theriault
District Manager Nunavut
Iqaluit, NWT

FROM
DE

Dan Elliott
Water Resources Officer

Security-Classification-de sécurité

Our file - N/Référence

Your file - V/Référence

Date
March 27, 1995

SUBJECT
OBJET

DISCUSSIONS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

On this date I spoke to Mr. Rob Kielly, EHO for the Keewatin Health Board. Topics of discussion were the recent happenings in the Keewatin area such as the lowering of the level of Williamson lake, the "problems" in Baker Lake, (previously documented regarding the NTPC power station, and the MOT sewage tanks) and other items. The discussion went as follows:

1) Williamson Lake: He was not aware of the request to drop the level but had no objection with the operation as he could see that there was a need for the dropping of the level. He agreed that the high levels had previously caused a problem with standing water and icing in the area below the Northern Store and below the Nanuq Inn. He agreed that there should be some mechanism in place to allow for lowering of the level when necessary.

2) Baker Lake: Same concerns were expressed to him respecting the "MOT" sewage tank. He indicated that he told the Renewable Resources persons that they had not been aware of any spills but was aware that on hearsay evidence there was some concern over the fact that the people on the system had "unlimited" storage capacity in terms of lengthy showers and unlimited washing capacity. This sour grapes type of concern would not be dealt with but they would only react to bone fide concerns such as spills which had not been reported to Health or anyone else for that matter.

3) A new concern over the disposal of developer fluid from the various clinics in town. Apparently, Ren Res had given a warning and read the Riot Act to the different clinics in town over the disposal of fixer fluid from Xray films in the clinics. He also explained to me that as far as he was aware, the silver was the concern and that the fluid was being disposed of per the manufacturers instructions. He also indicated that the silver was reportedly not in the free ion state, and in very low concentrations and as such should not be too much of a problem. Rob asked me if I was aware of the situation (to which I indicated negative but had heard that they were thinking of coming up with some sort of Guidelines). Apparently he felt that they could comply with a removal plan as it was not too expensive, but was rather taken back by the sudden concern in light of what else could be released to the environment from other municipal sources.

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4) Finally Rob asked me about the status of the Arviat Study and Water Licence as well as the status of the Baker Lake study. Indicated that as far as I was aware a couple of years ago a licence was drafted for Arviat but was not issued pending the completion of the study being undertaken due to perceived health concerns with the overland travel through the 4 wheelers through the sewage outfall. This has since been corrected to mine and Health satisfaction by installing a culvert over the outfall route. I would imagine the study should be over and the licence redrafted to reflect the new Act and it should be ready to issue. As far as the Baker Lake study is concerned I would have to ask Water Resources to ascertain what has to be done, by whom and when.

Brian:
where are
these studies
are they
done?

Rob advised me that he had read the draft Coral Harbour sewage study and wanted to know if I was aware of the study. I indicated that I knew it was underway but had not as yet seen the report. I indicated that I would be contacting Mr. Forsyth of MACA to discuss the matter further.

Also discussed briefly was the location of the new Rankin Inlet sewage line. I questioned him if he knew whether or not the new line was to join into the system after the macerator or before at the truck pumpout station. He indicated that as far as he was aware it was to go into the system after the macerator (the only form of treatment).

One last point discussed was the possible timing for the Peter Lake discussion regarding the contaminants in the Peter Lake. Apparently they just had their first Health Board Meeting in quite some time and it was decided that it was a very important issue that required further discussion in the very near future. It was left with Mr. Murray Swryripa to see if they could get here this week or the next to discuss the matter further.

I trust that the foregoing is self explanatory. Should there be any questions please feel free to contact me at any time.

Regards



Dan Elliott
Water Resource Officer (Roving)