

DOUBLE REGISTERED

Cambridge Bay  
N.W.T.

Northern Affairs Program  
Water Resources Division  
R/C, Box 1590  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2A2

October 5, 1982



4571-1-6

Attention: Mr. David Smilgaitak

Dear Sir:

Enclosed find a copy of an overview of the water use and waste disposal facilities at the settlement of Cambridge Bay. All municipalities within the Northwest Territories will eventually be licensed to use water and dispose of waste as required under the Northern Inland Waters Act. Time constraints limit the licensing process. In the meantime visits to non-licensed communities such as Cambridge Bay will take place to update changes in water use facilities and to identify areas which may be in contravention of the Northern Inland Waters Act.

Essentially unusual practices are identified and those responsible for such practices are notified so that corrective measures may be implemented. Within Bay two areas which have potential for pollution of receiving waters are the WCCO and Ypel Ross construction oil storage tanks and the construction of Ypel Ross construction. Both WCCO and Ypel Ross construction are located along with a request to implement measures necessary to minimize the potential for water pollution from their operation. The use of the water supply lake by float planes has been identified as an area of concern by the Inspector. There is always the potential of petroleum product leakage and spillage into these waters. This is most undesirable and you may wish to provide information to control the usage of water supply lake.

If you have any concerns regarding the Inspector's report or this covering letter, please do not hesitate to contact the Inspector or the undersigned.

The assistance and cooperation that your municipal officials extended to the Inspector during his visit is appreciated.

Yours truly,

Scott Mowatt  
Administrator  
Inland Waters Section

## OVERVIEW OF WATER USE AND WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES

### AT THE SETTLEMENT OF CAMBRIDGE BAY, N.W.T.

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#### INTRODUCTION

On July 29, 1982, Neil Bryant, Inspector under the Northern Inland Waters Act and an employee from the Yellowknife Regional office of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development investigated the water use and waste disposal facilities in the Settlement of Cambridge Bay. Meetings and discussion took place with both the Secretary Manager, Mr. David Omilgoitok and prominent citizen Mr. Bill Lyle. Mr. Bill Lyle accompanied the Inspector on a brief tour of the local fish packing plant. The Manager of Municipal Services Mr. Ikey Evalik accompanied the inspector during the tour of water use and waste disposal facilities.

#### GENERAL

Cambridge Bay is located on the coast of Victoria Island. It is about 960 air kilometers Northeast of Yellowknife. There are about 850 people in the settlement. There is a commercial fish packing plant operated through the Co-op. The Cam-Main DEW line site is located north of the airport and west of the settlement accessible to both by a gravel road.

#### WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied from a source known as Water Supply Lake about two (2) kilometers north of the municipality. Water is pumped from the lake to a storage tank located in the centre of the community. From here all water is distributed by tank truck. The water is chlorinated during filling of the tank trucks just previous to distribution. All water supply facilities were well maintained. The floor in the central pumphouse and storage area was being painted during the visit. There was an airplane on floats docked on the water supply lake. Use of water supply lakes of relatively small size for float planes is an undesirable practice and should be discouraged by municipal officials.

The water used at the airport and at the Atmospheric Environment facility are both supplied by the municipality.

There is no accurate measure of water use as records are kept of the number of fill-ups of holding tanks, not of actual gallons delivered.

#### SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There are only about twenty (20) dwellings still utilizing bagged sewage (honey bag) disposal. Greywater produced at these dwellings is disposed into the overburden adjacent to the dwelling. It is anticipated that all dwellings will be upgraded to accomodate sewage holding tanks by the end of 1982, hence honey bag usage will be phased out completely.

All honey bags and sewage pumpout is disposed at the municipal dump, where no special provisions are made to separate sewage from other waste materials.

All sewage disposal from both the airport facilities and the Atmospheric Environment installation is handled by the municipality on an as-required basis.

#### SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL (Garbage)

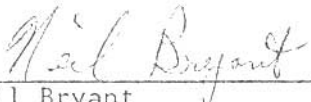
The garbage dump is located about one and a half (1 ½) kilometers Northeast of the community. All garbage, pumpout sewage, honey bags and other solid waste is dumped in the same location. No attempt is made to separate any of the waste disposed at this site. The dump is periodically burned and levelled. It was evident during the visit that maintenance work was required. Mr. Evalik indicated this would be done by the end of the month. All garbage from the Airport and the Atmospheric Environment site is collected by the municipality and disposed at this site.

#### OTHER AREAS OF CONCERN

There were two oil supply tanks located just east of the south end of the airstrip and identified as belonging to Fred Ross Construction. These tanks were bermed, however, the berming had been channelled apparently to allow drainage of trapped water. Thus the potential for containment of oil in case of a spill was negligible. These berms should be properly reconstructed immediately. Should the containment area fill with water in the future it should be pumped out. Another tank located north of the airport terminal building was investigated. This tank was not being used at the time. There were sunken track areas from heavy machinery adjacent to the tank. It would require proper berming before it could be utilized for storage. Any drainage from this area is directly to the water supply lake for the DEW line station. Other oil supply tanks investigated were those in the centre of the community. Two large tanks identified as belonging to NCPC were not adequately bermed. They were at the west end of the tank farm just east of three well bermed tanks.

Another area of concern brought to my attention was the Fred Ross Construction storage area. It is located in the south west corner of the community just north of the road which runs along Cambridge Bay. This area could be cleaned up with material of no further use taken to the dump and the remainder stored in a more orderly fashion. While the possibility of water pollution from this area is small it is an eyesore which could be resolved with proper maintenance.

The Inspector thanks the officials from the municipality for their time and for the transportation supplied.

  
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Neil Bryant  
Inspector Under the Northern Inland  
Waters Act