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Department of Environment

Ministère de l'Environnement

April 20, 2006

Richard Dwyer Licensing Trainee Nunavut Water Board

via Email to: licensingtrainee@nwb.nunavut.ca

SUBJECT: CAPE DORSET SEWAGE LAGOON SYSTEM & COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION TENDER

Dear Richard:

The Department of Environment (DOE) has reviewed the final design report and construction tender for the Cape Dorset sewage system and has the following comments.

Acts, Regulations and Guidelines

Neither of the documents reviewed acknowledge the existence of territorial environmental legislation, regulations and guidelines. Section 5(1) of Nunavut's *Environmental Protection Act* (EPA) states:

"Subject to subsection (3), no person shall discharge or permit the discharge of a contaminant into the environment."

Within the Act, the definition of contaminant and environment are defined as follows:

"contaminant" means any noise, heat, vibration or substance as the Minister may prescribe that, where discharged into the environment,

- a) endangers the health, safety or welfare of persons,
- b) interferes or is likely to interfere with normal enjoyment of life or property,
- c) endangers the health of animal life, or
- d) causes or is likely to cause damage to plant life or to property;

"environment" means the components of the Earth and includes

- a) air, land and water,
- b) all layers of the atmosphere,

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- c) all organic and inorganic matter and living organisms, and
- d) the interacting natural systems that include components referred to in paragraphs (a) to (c);

A number of regulations and guidelines have been developed and enacted under the authority of the EPA these must be complied with. The specific regulations and guidelines that are relevant to this review include the following:

- Spill Planning and Reporting Regulation;
- Environmental Guideline for Dust Suppression;
- Environmental Guideline for General Management of Hazardous Waste;
- Environmental Guideline for Sulphur Dioxide and Suspended Particulates;

Copies of these can be obtained from:

Department of Environment Environmental Protection Government of Nunavut Box 1000, Stn. 1360 Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0 (867) 975-7700

Spill Contingency Plan

The applicant should produce a contingency plan, or update existing spills plans, to include new operations and infrastructure. The plan should facilitate response to spills which might occur during construction and operation of the project. The plan should include a list of available spill response equipment and the names of trained personnel who will be on-site and available in the case of a spill.

The proponent is referred to DoE's Spill Contingency Planning and Reporting Regulations and A Guide to the Spill Contingency Planning and Reporting Regulations.

Disposal of sewage sludge

One of the stated design parameters for the sewage system is ease of maintenance. Part of this maintenance should include removal and disposal of sewage sludge; this does not appear to have been considered. Estimates should be made of the quantities of sludge likely to be produced, the required frequency of extraction from the lagoons; and operational procedures developed for environmentally sound removal and disposal. These procedures should include characterization to ensure disposal options are appropriate.

We thank NWB for the opportunity to comment on this license application.



Yours sincerely,

Original signed by

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