

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

9500-1b.

Date

March 28, 1995

SUBJECT  
OBJET

MEETING WITH THE MACA ENGINEER FOR THE KEEWATIN

On March 27th I met with Mr. Don Forsyth of MACA to discuss any water related issues in the Keewatin. Also discussed was the sampling requirements and the various studies that were undertaken in the Keewatin.

I asked for a copy of the draft Coral Harbour waste study that was started last summer but was told that he had no spares and would get the consultant to forward one to me ASAP. As well I obtained a copy of the final report on the Chesterfield Inlet study that was completed last fall. I will forward a copy to the various office that may or may not have a copy. As well I will take a look at it and provide comments on both the reports when time permits (and when I get copies of both).

A major portion of our brief discussion centred around the sampling requirements to both monitor a licence and to complete a study on the waste disposal systems in the area. He indicated and I agreed that every time MACA goes to set up an overland treatment system in the area they have to spend considerable monies and time to carry out exactly what has already been done and get basically the same results. Surely there reaches a time when the topic is sufficiently studied to be able to say that under similar circumstances of terrain relief, distance and vegetation types, etc. there will be a given amount of contaminant reduction that meets the requirements as set by the Board or Fisheries. Why do they have to keep reinventing the wheel? I indicated that a model of sorts could possibly be assumed for parts of the Keewatin but that MACA should be wary of using it as a universal model for places inside the treeline as well as areas such as Resolute Bay where there is little or no vegetation. I indicated, and he agreed, that possibly there was sufficient information to take it to the Board and possibly get some guidelines started that would reduce the amount of design study required to get some of the systems approved.

who is asking for this

Respecting the Repulse Bay waste study that was started, he indicated that they had come into some problems as of late due to the fact that the Airport authority will not allow the continued use of the present solid waste disposal facility (located adjacent to the airport).

When MACA did a determination of alternate sites for the communities approval they were told that the community wanted to continue to use the existing facility and that the community wanted the airport moved as it was confining community expansion. Apparently and understandably, until the matter is resolved MACA will not be spending any further study funds in the community.

The final area of conversation was about the sampling requirements for some of the licences in the Keewatin. Don felt that some of the sampling was excessive. I agreed and indicated that based on who was involved in the drafting of the licenses, there are different sampling requirements in the NWT. For example I indicated that Coppermine and Cambridge Bay both of which had populations of about 1200+ people, had no sample requirements but Chesterfield Inlet had considerable requirements. I went further to indicate that I personally felt that most of the information was not necessary but was rather nice to know information. As well, I indicated that for the most part I would rather have considerably less information (say from my one trip into the area) that I knew was of good quality than a whole bunch of information that I doubted as being of good quality due to poor sampling technique or due to a lack of interest on behalf of the sampler (I indicated that not all the information was useless but that there was sufficient doubt raised in my experience to make this assertion). This he felt was interesting especially when I indicated that I would pursue this further with the Water Resources Division and the Board (he is under the impression that they have to wait until the expiry of the licence to get it changed, maybe I will be able to surprise him).

Other comments made in the meeting was that he was appreciative of my reports as he found them useful in completing his briefing notes and final year end report.

I hope that the information is of benefit in "meeting" those persons involved in the administration of the water and waste programs in the Keewatin.

Regards



Dan Elliott  
Water Resource Officer (Roving)