Water Licence # NWB3GJO9904 Renewal Gjoa Haven, Nunavut

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Public Registry

Project Summary

Background

The Hamlet of Gjoa Haven has applied for a renewal of their current water licence for the use of water and disposal of waste in their community. The current water licence expires in January 2004.

The community presently delivers water from a truck fill station that draws water from Water Lake. Over several years, it has been noted that the quality of the water supply system has deteriorated. In the past 2 years, the Government of Nunavut has undertaken studies to determine the best long-term water supply system for the community. The first phase of the long-term solution involves the construction of a new Water Treatment Plant, and the replacement of the existing intake pipe into Water Lake. In the future, the Hamlet hopes to draw water from Swan Lake only.

Pumpout sewage is treated in a 22, 700m² single-cell lagoon, located 1.7 km east of the community. There is a berm around the lagoon that reaches 15 feet high in some places. Currently, there appears to be a large breach on the wall of the sewage lagoon that continually discharges wastewater in a drainage path towards the ocean. There are no plans to upgrade the sewage treatment site.

Household garbage is collected daily by the Hamlet and dropped off at the 10, 700 m² fenced solid waste disposal site located 1.7 km south-east of the community. Wastes are burned once a week and an adjacent esker serves as a source for granular cover material. Bulk metals are located outside the fenced area. Signage is located at the entry to the landfill and areas for the disposal of hazardous waste animal wastes and bulk metals. There are no plans to upgrade the solid waste site at this time.

Regulatory Process

The regulation, use and management of water in the Nunavut Settlement Area falls under the responsibility of the Nunavut Water Board (NWB). According to the NWT Waters Act and the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, each community is required to have a water licence, which describes the intended use of water and water resources in the community.

Following the final approval of the renewal application by the NWB, upgrades to the SC water supply works will begin. The approval of the water licence will likely include MA specific monthly surface sampling to monitor the key parameters.

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