



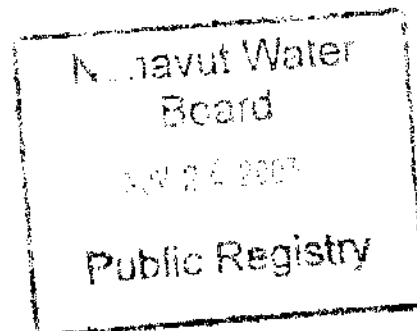
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November 25, 2003

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Our file: 4782 059

Via Facsimile

**RE: NWB3GJO – Hamlet of Gjoa Haven Municipal Water License Application**

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the information submitted with the above-mentioned application. The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to Environment Canada's mandated responsibilities for the enforcement of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

The Hamlet of Gjoa Haven is applying for a renewal of their current water license for the use of water and disposal of waste in their community. The current water license expires in January 2004. The license application includes the construction of a new water treatment plant and replacement for existing intake pipe into Water Lake. No upgrades to the sewage or solid waste facility sites are planned.

Environment Canada requires the following information in order to facilitate the review of this application:

- When available, EC requests that a copy of the Spill Contingency Plan be submitted. This plan should outline a clear and concise path of response in the event of a spill. All spills shall be documented and reported to the NWT 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.
- When available, EC requests that a copy of the Abandonment and Restoration Plan for the municipal waste and water facilities be submitted.

Environment Canada recommends that the following conditions be applied throughout all stages of the project:

- The proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes or sediment into any water body. According to the *Fisheries Act*, Section 36(3), the deposition of deleterious substances of any type in water frequented by fish, or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance, or any other deleterious substance that results from the deposit of the deleterious substance, may enter any such water, is prohibited.
- Once the new water facilities are established, the proponent should ensure that signage is erected at the water intake location notifying residents that Swan Lake is the new water source for the Hamlet.
- The water license application states that there is a large breach in the berm wall of the sewage treatment lagoon which causes continuous seasonal discharge. Environment Canada recommends that the breach be repaired in order to stop the potential for the

release of deleterious substances into the environment. It is recommended that the a freeboard of at least one (1) metre be maintained at the sewage lagoon in order to ensure sufficient capacity and retention time, especially during winter months when overland treatment is largely ineffective.

- The water license application also reports that the berm surrounding the solid waste disposal facility has also eroded away. Environment Canada recommends that the berm be repaired to prevent runoff from the solid waste facility from entering any waterways. Similarly, any ponded water within the berm should be held until it is tested and deemed to be non-deleterious, at which time the runoff maybe discharged over land. It is not recommended that ponded water from within the solid waste disposal facility be pumped into the sewage lagoon.
- Environment Canada recommends that the oil drum storage area be relocated to an segregated area within the berm. Once the breach in the berm is repaired, this area should provide adequate secondary containment in the event of a spill. Environment Canada recommends that all hazardous wastes be stored within the bermed area to help prevent the discharge of deleterious substances. All hazardous wastes should receive roper storage and disposal at a licensed and approved facility.
- The report "Water Supply for Gjoa Haven" by Dillon Consulting Ltd (2002) indicates that the timeline for construction of the new water supply facilities is from June 2003 – March 2004. Environment Canada would like to remind the proponent that all approvals must be in place prior to the commencement of any work.
- Environment Canada recommends that the ash from the burning of combustible wastes be covered with appropriate material at least annually.
- The water license application indicates that there are currently no plans to upgrade the sewage treatment facility. As problems are likely to persist with berm breaches and insufficient freeboard, and the *Municipal Wastewater Effluent Guidelines* continue to be exceeded, EC recommends that the Hamlet begin discussions with the Nunavut Water Board, Community Government and Transportation, and relevant regulators on upgraded treatment methods in order to prevent potential violations of the *Fisheries Act*.

If there are any changes in the proposed project, EC should be notified, as further review may be necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4639 or by email at [colette.meloche@ec.gc.ca](mailto:colette.meloche@ec.gc.ca).

Yours truly,

***Original Signed by***

Colette Meloche  
Environmental Assessment Specialist

cc: (Mike Fournier, Northern Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Environment Canada, Yellowknife)