Joseph Monteith
Water Resources Officer
Qikiqtani and High Arctic Region
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
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June 23, 2026

RE: Grise Fiord Sewage Lagoon Decant, Water Licence No. 3BM-GRI2636

Dear Joseph,

As per Part D, Item 2 of the Municipality of Grise Fiord Water Licence No. 3BM-GRI2636, this is notification of discharging wastewater from the sewage lagoon.

The immediate decant of the sewage lagoon is needed to comply with the minimum 1.0 m freeboard requirement (Part D, Item 4), and to prevent potential damage to the sewage lagoon berms (Part D, Item 5), due to high effluent levels from runoff inflow into the lagoon. Efforts to reduce the amount of runoff into the lagoon are also currently ongoing.

The sewage treatment facility in Grise Fiord consists of a single retention cell that discharges into a wetland for effluent polishing. The lagoon is located approximately 800 m southwest from the center of the community and was commissioned in 1998.

Figure 1. Grise Fiord Sewage Lagoon (Google Earth).

The sewage lagoon cell is filled to the top of the berms, shown in Figure 2. The sewage lagoon has an effluent discharge path designed for a pump decant during the ice-free season, located in the southwest corner of the lagoon. The discharge path leads to a filter strip wetland area. To lower effluent levels to 1.0 m freeboard, 15 to 30 days of pumping is projected, dependant on weather conditions that affect pumping operations.

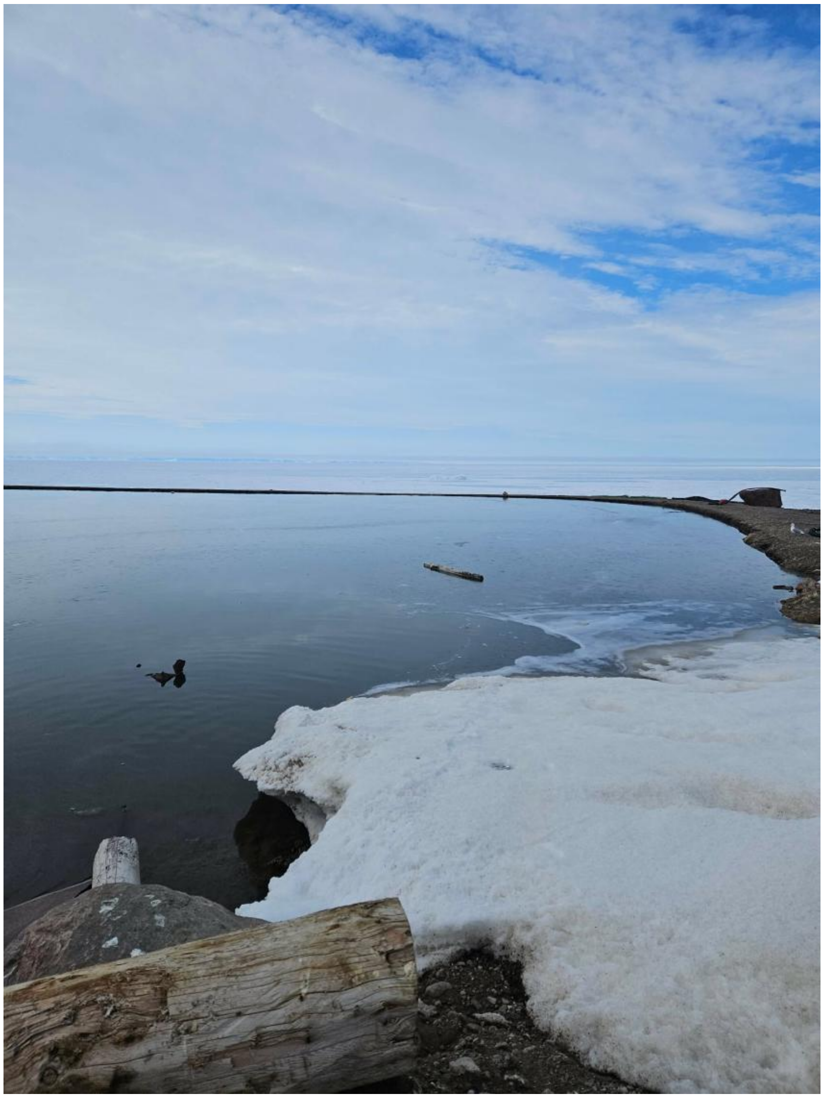

Figure 2. Grise Fiord Sewage Lagoon, June 18, 2026.

Effluent will be directed to the filter strip wetland and samples will be taken for GRI-4. Regular decanting operations will take place this summer (following notice to Inspector) to fully decant the lagoon.

Samples will be taken at the onset and towards the completion of the decant event at GRI-4 for the parameters in Part H, Item 5 and comparison will be made to the effluent criteria set out in Part D, Item 3 of Water Licence No. 3BM-GRI2636. If the results indicate effluent quality limits were exceeded, the incident will be reported accordingly as a spill. All results will also be included in the 2026 Annual Report.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Municipal Works Division at MuncipalWorksDivision@gov.nu.ca.

Sincerely,

Ryan Kum
Municipal Engineering Officer
Municipal Works Division
Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut
Government of Nunavut

Cc:
David General, Senior Administrative Officer, Municipality of Grise Fiord
Marty Kuluguktuq, Assistant Senior Administrative Officer, Municipality of Grise Fiord
Chris Dederick, Foreman, Municipality of Grise Fiord
NWB Licensing Department
Madeline Cole, Acting Manager, Municipal Works Division, GN-TIN
Municipal Works Division, GN-TIN