

Environmental Health Assessment Services  
Health Canada  
Tupper Building, P.L. 6604M  
2720 Riverside Drive  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0K9

July 31, 2003

Michael Roy  
INAC – Nunavut Regional Office, Water Resources  
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière  
10 Wellington St  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H4

Dear Mr Roy,

**Subject: Environmental Assessment for the Kugluktuk Water License Application**

Thank you for your letter of July 31, 2003, providing Health Canada with the notification for the above mentioned EA.

Until such time as there is a requirement for a federal environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA), we have no formal role to play in the environmental assessment. In the event that CEAA is triggered, the Responsible Authority can, under section 12(3) of CEAA, request information and knowledge from the federal authorities, which could include Health Canada.

As a federal authority, Health Canada has scientific health information and knowledge in a number of areas, which could possibly, but not necessarily, be of assistance in the environmental assessment being conducted. Examples of the areas of expertise available include:

- air, water and soil quality guidelines/standards;
- drinking water and sewage management;
- environmental and occupational toxicology;

- health risk assessment and risk management; and
- community health (First Nations and Inuit)

Please note that the responsibility for First Nation and Inuit health and well-being was transferred to the Government of the Northwest Territories in 1988 (when Nunavut was still part of NWT) and therefore, we assume that the appropriate authorities from the Territory will be involved to ensure that concerns relating to this issue will be identified.

With respect to the water license, we will not be reviewing the application for the reasons stated above. However, we would like to note that the use of waters and the deposit of waste into waters affecting the drinking water supply of Kugluktuk should take into consideration the Health Canada Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality. See <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hecs-sesc/water/dwgsup.htm> for details on the guidelines.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (613) 948-2875.

Yours sincerely,

Carolyn Dunn

cc Atis Lasis, HC, Ontario/ Nunavut Region