



**Environment Environnement
Canada Canada**

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Our file: 4782 037

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Via Email at roymjp@inac-ainc.gc.ca

RE: INAC Environmental Assessment – Municipality of Kugluktuk 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 Municipality of Kugluktuk has submitted a five-year water license application to obtain water for municipal use from Coppermine River.

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

- When available, EC requests copies of all drawings and maps for the solid waste disposal area and sewage treatment system be submitted.
- A Spill Contingency Plan outlining a clear path of response in the event of a spill. This plan should indicate that **all spills** are to be documented and reported to the NWT 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

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

Sewage Treatment Facility:

- The proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any 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.
- Environment Canada requests additional information regarding how the municipality plans on improving the discharge control system at the current sewage treatment facility. The 2001 Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) inspection report included with the license application indicates that the faecal coliform, ammonia, and phenol levels exceeded the *Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life*. The INAC inspector recommended that the retention time be increased

prior to discharge into the wetland system. In 2002, the municipality attempted to expand and reinforce the berm. However, the water license application indicates that the berm failed in May 2003, despite the efforts in 2002 to strengthen it. Environment Canada has concerns with the level of wetland treatment in the spring prior to the growing season, and requests the opportunity to review any plans submitted to the NWB to improve the current system.

- The water license application indicates that the sewage lagoon may overflow in the spring due to excessive snow melt runoff. Environment Canada recommends that the freeboard of the bermed area be increased allow for at least one (1) meter of freeboard during the high water period.
- The sewage treatment option currently employed by the municipality relies on the presence of healthy vegetation. Erosion of soils and damage to the vegetation by all-terrain vehicle use could compromise the efficiency of the sewage treatment system. In order to minimize the extent to which all terrain vehicles use trails which intersect the effluent streams of the sewage treatment area, EC recommends that signage be erected along the ATV trails prior to the sewage treatment area indicating that the area is used for the treatment of raw sewage, and encouraging drivers to avoid the area.

Solid Waste Treatment Facility:

- Environment Canada recommends that signage be erected indicating the location of the abandoned solid waste site.
- Environment Canada is pleased that the domestic waste site is fenced. However, EC further recommends that the bulky and waste oil disposal sites also be fenced for security reasons.
- Environment Canada recommends that the municipality undertake a waste composition study. Such a study will help the municipality plan for the long term waste disposal needs of the community, and assist in the achievement of any waste reduction goals.
- It is indicated that there was some standing water at the toe of the solid waste facility during a site visit in June 2003. Environment Canada recommends that, if not already in place, a berm or other preventative measure be implemented to prevent this water from escaping the solid waste facility.
- The 2002 INAC inspection report indicates that waste batteries were noted in the non-hazardous waste disposal area. Environment Canada recommends that all hazardous wastes, including waste batteries and waste oil, be segregated from the general waste stream for treatment and disposal at an approved facility.
- The water license application states that the Hamlet practices burning of combustible wastes. Environment Canada recommends that the burned area be covered with suitable cover material at least annually.

Water Treatment Facility:

- Environment Canada recommends that signage be erected indicating the location of the intake at the municipal water source.
- Environment Canada recommends that a spill kit be located at the transfer pump at the Water Intake Facility at the Coppermine River.

If there are any changes in the proposed project, EC should be notified, as further review may be necessary. Please be advised that these recommendations are without prejudice to any course of action that Environment Canada may take with respect to any alleged violations under federal legislation. 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.

Yours truly,

Colette Meloche
Environmental Assessment Specialist

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