

Interoffice MEMORANDUM

to: Shannon Pagatto
from: Paul Smith
subject: Pangnirtung Sewage Study
date: March 5, 1998

Shannon,

On behalf of the Nunavut District, please accept the following comments on OM&M's sewage study plan (Pangnirtung) prepared for MACA.

First, Pangnirtung has required a proper sewage treatment facility for many years now. The current dumping site is wholly unacceptable and any system put in to replace it would have a significant positive effect.

I suppose that the following comments will soon start sounding like a broken record, but it seems to me that those firms that do not have financial connections with companies specializing in waste treatment systems choose a typical mechanical system (invariably an off-the-shelf RBC unit) which never seems to make the grade and the standard northern back-up, a sewage lagoon, is chosen.

I'm not saying that a lagoon isn't a suitable option for Pangnirtung, but if the Iqaluit experience has taught us anything, it is that there is more in the way than just RBC and SBR's out there. However, I don't think that it is reasonable to expect all current proposed projects to return to square-one to re-evaluate all systems that are out there. Besides, Iqaluit does possess skilled labour that does not necessarily exist in the smaller communities.

The phased approach to construct a 2-cell lagoon seems justified.

My concerns relate more to the actual location of the lagoon. As the necessary space for a lagoon simply does not exist near Pangnirtung, the lagoon must partially sit on the tidal zone. DFO may have concerns, but I suppose that if properly constructed and armoured, tidal and ice scour can be controlled.

Discharge from the lagoon is routed such that it doesn't enter the ocean directly. Why this is, I'm not sure (or that it's necessary). Effluent will not receive the benefit of any overland treatment in such a short distance. The proposed set-up appears to address 'short-circuiting'.

One comment that I would make regarding the O+M of the facility is that in the late summer when the lagoon(s) are drained, that it be done over a period of weeks as opposed a ca. 7 day period when the valve is simply cranked open and a huge 'slug' of sewage is discharged into the environment.

That is all.