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Munarbiliqiylikni Inzuhiriktirish

Department of Health and Social Services

Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux

Dr. Isaac Sobol, MD, CCFP, MHSc.

Chief Medical Officer of Health

12 June, 2008

**Ron Mongeau , SAO
Mayor and Hamlet Council
Pangnirtung Nunavut**

**Re: Direction for emergency dumping of sewage into the Duvall River
by the Hamlet of Pangnirtung for 7 days, beginning on June 10, 2008,
to prevent potential health hazard**

As per provisions of the Nunavut Public Health Act, which gives the Chief Medical Officer of Health the authority to take action to prevent a health hazard, I hereby require, as a temporary emergency measure, the Hamlet of Pangnirtung to discharge sewage into the Duvall River up to a maximum of seven days, retroactive to June 10, 2008. This authority extends the original 48 hours permitted based on updated information as follows:

Sewage trucks can no longer deliver sewage from homes and businesses to the sewage treatment plant, due to the failure of one bridge and damage to the other bridge which provides the access from the major portion of the Hamlet to the sewage treatment plant on the other side of the Duvall River. A review of the situation on June 11 indicates that a replacement bridge will not be available for a matter of weeks.

There are no areas in the geography around Pangnirtung that would provide for a wetland or land farm to put sewage onto, and there is no lagoon or other storage location in the Hamlet.

The discharge of sewage into the river is the only viable alternative to simply allowing sewage holding tanks to accumulate and overflow in homes and businesses, which would constitute a health hazard for residents of the Hamlet.

It is anticipated that an alternate temporary means to transfer sewage from one side of the river to the other, and then to the sewage lagoon will be placed in operation as soon as possible under this circumstance, hence this extension.



Dr. Isaac Sobol, MD, CCFP, MHSc.
Chief Medical Officer of Health

Cc INAC Water Inspector: Bernie MacIsaac, Jim Rogers
Nunavut Water Board: Dionne Filiatrault
Environment Canada: Craig Broome