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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD  
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI  
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

**File: 3BM-PAN1417/TR/E3**

November 26, 2014

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**Subject: Water Licence No. 3BM-PAN1417 “Hamlet of Pangnirtung”, Government of Nunavut Department of Community and Government Services; Submission of Sewage Treatment System Upgrades**

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Dear Mr. Roy and Mr. Fitzgerald:

On September 30 and October 1, 2014, the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) received (by email) a notice/request from exp. Services Inc. and Government of Nunavut Department of Community and Government Services (GN-CGS) on behalf of Licensee for temporary bypassing of Screened Wastewater during construction related to the installation of an upgraded wastewater treatment process entitled “Modification of WWTP of the Hamlet of Pangnirtung under Water Licence # 3BM-PAN1417” as a requirement of Part E, Item 3 of the Licence.

*It was stated that the Pangnirtung Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) has been severely undersized for some time and work is underway to install an upgraded treatment process. Due to the extent of the construction work required, the plant has been required to bypass the secondary (biological) portion of the treatment plant. The intent of the bypass was that the wastewater would still undergo preliminary fine screening prior to being discharged.*

With the recognition that the NWB does not have jurisdiction over discharges into the marine environment and that such discharges are within the jurisdiction of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Environment Canada (EC), the NWB distributed a call for comments from interested parties in relation to the modification request and bypass on October 28, 2014, with a comment submission deadline of November 12, 2014. On November 12, 2014, comments were received from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), stating that AANDC is satisfied at this time that the planned upgrades and modifications undertaken to the wastewater treatment plant will meet both the current and future needs of the Hamlet, while also ensuring that there are limited or no impacts to water or the environment.

The Board received no comments on the proposed modification or bypass by either DFO or EC.

In considering this request, the Board recognizes that the proposed bypass of the sewage treatment system will be for a short time and the potential for impact to surface water would be limited. The Board has therefore approved the request for Modification through the Board Motion No. 2014-B1-035, dated November 26, 2014, as required under Part E, Item 3 of Licence 3BM-PAN1417. The Board also requires that the Licensee ensure that future updates of applicable plans (i.e., operation and maintenance plans, spill contingency plan, etc.) include the proposed upgrades.

However, in granting the Licensee's proposed modification and bypass request, the Board emphasizes that the NWB's jurisdiction is limited to freshwater and does not apply to discharges into the marine environment. The Licensee is reminded that when discharging into the marine environment during the bypass of the sewage treatment plant the Licensee is bound by the general provisions of s. 36(3) of the Federal *Fisheries Act*, prohibiting the release of deleterious substances into waters frequented by fish as follows:

*36(3) Subject to subsection (4), no person shall deposit or permit the deposit of a deleterious substance 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*

Consequently, the Board advises the Licensee to seek guidance and direction from DFO and EC regarding the specific compliance requirements associated with the direct discharge into the marine environment during the plant bypass.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 360-6338 or karen.kharatyan@nwb-oen.ca, at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,

Karén Kharatyan  
Technical Advisor

cc: Distribution List – Qikiqtani