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File: 4782 016 POND INLET WATER LICENCE - NEW APPLICATION
4782 059 GJOA HAVEN WATER LICENCE - NEW APPLICATION

November 25, 1998

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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD

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PUBLIC REGISTRY

New Municipal Water Licence Applications

I am responding to the new water licence applications by the municipalities of Pond Inlet and Gjoa Haven. Given there is very little detailed, technical information on existing and past sewage and solid waste management facilities in the two communities, my comments are of a general nature.

I want to begin by saying that the desire to formalize water use and sewage disposal by the municipalities is a positive move. Hopefully this will result in the collection of usable information and spearhead initiatives aimed at improving current facilities. Some general recommendations I would like to offer include the need to ensure the two municipalities:

- Develop spill contingency plans for their sewage lagoons. This should include ensuring appropriate personnel have adequate training and access to equipment and supplies in support of response actions.
- Segregate solid waste and erect fencing at the local landfill. Special attention should be directed to identifying, segregating, storing and disposing hazardous wastes such as used oils and paints.
- Assess the status of current facilities and practices (e.g. sewage lagoon and solid waste landfills as well as the handling, storage and eventual disposal of hazardous materials).
- Initiate studies aimed at improving existing facilities.

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- Implement water quality monitoring programs directed at sewage lagoon effluents and other areas of concern such as potential leaching from drainage passing through existing and old landfills.
- Identify training needs and implement programs to increase human capacity at the local level in managing liquid and solid wastes.

In following through on any and hopefully all of these recommendations, the municipalities will be working towards two important objectives:

1. Ensuring compliance with Section 36 of the *Fisheries Act*.
2. Protecting water quality and the environment in general in the vicinity of the community.

Should you want to discuss in detail any of the recommendations or other aspects of the water licences, please do not hesitate to call me at (867) 669-4737. I would also be happy to arrange for Environment Canada specialists to provide specific advice on topics of mutual interest.



Carey Ogilvie
Environmental Assessment Coordinator
Environmental Protection Branch

c. Mr. Stephen Harbicht