

Northern Division
Environmental Protection Branch
Prairie and Northern Region
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May 29, 2000

Our File: 4782-050

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Technical Advisor
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119,
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By Facsimile: (867) 360-6369

Re: Municipality of Qikiqtarjuaq - Renewal of Water Licence NWB3QIK/N4L3-0640

I have reviewed the above renewal application on behalf of the Environmental Protection Branch, Environment Canada (EPB) and offer the following comments for your consideration:

Solid Waste:

- C The application has identified erosion is occurring at the abandoned dump site. Steps should be taken to ensure the cover is stabilized.
- C Hazardous materials are currently being segregated into an unused trailer unit and stockpiled for sealift when sufficient quantities are accumulated. This segregation is commendable and EPB encourages recycling or reuse of such materials where possible.
- C One concern is the absence of a spill contingency plan. A response plan should be developed for all types of spills which could occur in the community.
- C The practice of open burning is strongly discouraged, as this results in the release of a number of contaminants generated by the incomplete combustion of plastics and hydrocarbons, as well as the generation of particulate matter. EPB encourages the community to pursue alternatives to open burning, including other compaction technologies as well as separation and reduction of waste at source.
- C The previous licence required development of an Operation and Maintenance plan for the solid waste site. EPB does not have a copy of this on file and recommends in any case that an update be done under the renewed licence.

Sewage:

- C It is noted that the water intake does not have a screen on it as required under the existing licence. It is recommended that this be installed on the intake hose.
- C With the potential for tannery influent joining the waste stream, it is recommended that in addition to the list of parameters tested at Station Number 0640-4, metals also be analysed annually in order to have some baseline information.
- C The most recent annual report did not include a copy of the analytical results for the sewage effluent quality. These would have been useful in formulating recommendations for further monitoring or mitigation.

General:

- Inclusion of drawings with the application would have been useful.
- Capacity for both the sewage and solid waste facilities is expected to be reached in 2003, and a planning study is not scheduled until 2001/2002. There is concern that this will not allow sufficient lead time to commission new facilities, should that be necessary.
- It is recommended that the renewal licence include abandonment planning for the existing facilities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 669-4735 with any questions or comments regarding the foregoing.

Yours truly,

Anne Wilson
Water Pollution Specialist

cc: Steve Harbicht (Head, Assessment & Monitoring, EPB)
Francois Rainville (EPB Iqaluit)