



Water Resources Division
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July 25, 2002

Ms. Phyllis Beaulieu
Acting Licensing Administrator
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, Nunavut
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Your file - Votre référence

NWB3RAN

Our file - Notre référence

Dear Ms. Beaulieu:

Re: Rankin Inlet - Water Licence Application

The Hamlet of Rankin Inlet submitted a water licence application in November of 2001. Subsequent to this, supporting documentation was submitted and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) review was initiated on July 8, 2002. As the previous licence (N6L3-0779) expired on March 31, 1999 this is considered to be a new application. The following conditions are suggested for the NWB's consideration:

Conditions Applying to Water Use:

- in accordance with the application, a water use limit of 378,000 m³/year should be sufficient for the requested term of the licence (10 years)

Conditions Applying to Waste Disposal: Solid Waste Disposal Site

- develop and implement an Operation and Maintenance Plan that outlines the following procedures:
 - safe handling, storage and disposal of waste oil and other hazardous wastes,
 - storage, disposal and/or removal of bulky items and scrap metal,
 - trench filling, compacting and covering,
 - disposal of sewage sludge from the sewage treatment plant
- designate a suitable area for hazardous waste storage
- repair and maintain fencing to prevent scattering of solid waste
- install and maintain signage at the waste disposal site to improve waste separation and help direct site users to the appropriate areas, designate an area for salvage that

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- is well separated from the main disposal area
- ensure that wastes are not deposited into water, specifically the pooled water below the waste disposal site (towards the former SNP station)
- establish SNP stations to monitor standing water quality and leachate at the landfill site, past analytical results have indicated metal concentrations exceeding the *Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life* (ammonia: 3.48 mg/L vs 2.2 mg/L, cadmium: 0.6 µg/L vs 0.017 µg/L, copper: 77 µg/L vs 4 µg/L, iron: 392 µg/L vs 300 µg/L, and zinc 146 µg/L vs 30 µg/L)
- submit a plan to improve drainage at the waste disposal site and prevent the accumulation of standing water
- submit plans for the new waste disposal site as soon as possible, note that development of this site must not be initiated prior to approval from the NWB
- assess contaminants in the vicinity of the solid waste disposal site, submit an abandonment and restoration plan that summarizes these results and outlines the steps required to restore this site in a manner that will mitigate environmental impacts

Please note that there is a discrepancy between the Supplementary Questionnaire and Application Summary prepared by FSC. The Questionnaire states that “almost all waste oil is used by a local contractor to burn in his waste oil furnace” and “the remaining waste oil is shipped out of the hamlet since there are no other facilities available to dispose of it”. In contrast, the Summary states that “waste oil is burned in a trench”. The latter practice is unacceptable and the Hamlet must include a procedure for handling and storing waste oil in the Operations and Maintenance Plan.

Conditions Applying to Waste Disposal: Municipal Sewage

- sample sewage effluent monthly, as per the *Guidelines for the Discharge of Treated Municipal Wastewater in the Northwest Territories* (1992), the effluent must meet the following criteria:

Total Suspended Solids - 120 mg/L
BOD - 100 mg/L
Total Coliforms - 10,000 CFU/100 mL
pH - 6-9
Oil and Grease - no visible sheen
Ammonia - monitor only

General Comments

- control all activities, including maintenance procedures and refueling, to prevent the entry of petroleum products or other deleterious substances into the water
- report all sewage by-passes, spills of oil, fuel, or other deleterious material immediately to the 24-Hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130
- ensure that appropriate training of municipal staff is completed to ensure quality

control in sampling collection and preparation

As mentioned in my letter to Mr. Philippe di Pizzo dated July 19, 2002, the issue of ownership of the sewage treatment plant poses an enforcement challenge under the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*. This issue should be resolved prior to issuing a water licence to the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has initiated discussions pertaining to this issue; however, a response from the Government of Nunavut Departments of Community, Government and Transportation, and Public Works and Services is pending. In the case that this issue cannot be resolved in a timely manner, it is recommended that the NWB evaluate the implications of the water licence conditions on the Hamlet. The water licence is intended to improve environmental stewardship and reporting; however, it should not impose non-compliance or a financial burden on the Hamlet

I hope these comments will be of assistance during the licensing process, should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 975-4548 or by e-mail at johnsonmi@inac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,
Original signed by:

Michelle Johnson
Kitikmeot/Kivalliq Regional Coordinator

c.c.: Mr. C. Bodykevich, Water Resources Officer