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Your file - Votre référence

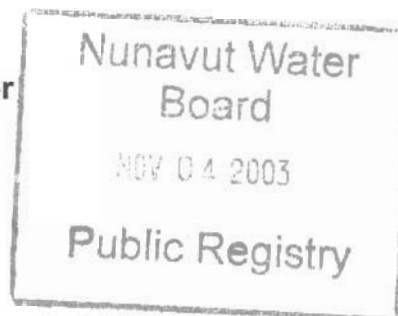
Our file - Notre référence

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October 28, 2003

Ron Roach
Senior Administrative Officer
Hamlet of Rankin Inlet
PO Box 310
Rankin Inlet, NU X0C 0G0
Ph: 867/645-2895
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Re: Water licence inspection for September 17, 2003

I would like to thank Hamlet Foreman Arnie Brown, Utilidoor Systems Officer Amil Lindsay and Petroleum Products Officer Tommy Gordon for their time and assistance during the water licence inspection.

The Hamlet of Rankin Inlet operates the Solid Waste Disposal Facilities while Water and Sewage Treatment is the responsibility of the Department of Public Works and Services. As a result, this inspection report will focus on the Solid Waste Disposal Facilities in the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind the Hamlet that an annual report on all municipal activities relating to the water licence is required no later than March 31, 2004. An outline for the Hamlet's annual report is attached to this document.

In the course of the inspection a number of problems were observed with respect to waste disposal in the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet, these problems are discussed in the following report.

Solid Waste Landfill

Solid waste disposal in the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet is unacceptable. The disposal facility has problems with a lack of segregation, no containment of hazardous materials, the potential migration of contaminants in runoff and uncontrolled access to the landfill. The Hamlet's landfill was formerly a burn and bury operation but safety hazards resulting from a lack of segregation of materials have forced the Hamlet to discontinue burning waste (figure 1 and figure 2). Although a section outside the fence contains a concentration of waste oil drums and vehicles, these materials along with tires, lead acid batteries and animal carcasses are scattered throughout the landfill. The new landfill facility will need to address these problems if it is to provide adequate solid waste disposal for the

There is currently no way to control access to the landfill and the fence put up to help contain waste has a number of large holes that need to be repaired for it to work properly. The new landfill should be gated and locked at night to prevent improper waste disposal at the site.

No seepage or runoff was visible passing through the landfill at the time of the inspection but the landfill is a collection area for runoff and that is a concern in spring. According to the water licence this runoff is required to be sampled between May and August but this sampling has not been performed.

Construction of a new landfill is scheduled to begin in September 2003 with completion sometime in late 2004 or early 2005 (figure 3). According to Ron Roach, the SAO, an A&R plan has not yet been started for the old landfill. The water licence states that the A&R plan was to be submitted with the preliminary design drawings for the new landfill facility.

Waste Metal Containment

Waste metal is not segregated and is easily observed throughout the landfill. Also, no attempt has been made to segregate and contain hazardous materials. A properly marked area of the landfill should be set aside to hold hazardous materials. This area should include containment structures for hazardous materials such as lead acid batteries, waste paint and solvents.

Waste Oil Storage

Waste oil storage in the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet is unacceptable. Barrels of waste oil are concentrated at the entrance to the landfill with large areas of hydrocarbon contamination visible. No method of spill containment is in place and no method of waste oil disposal was demonstrated. The waste oil either needs to be incinerated in a waste oil burner or shipped South for appropriate disposal. In either case the oil should be stored in a lined and bermed area to minimize further soil contamination.

Non -Compliance of the Act or Water Licence:

The Hamlet of Rankin Inlet is out of compliance with respect to segregating waste, properly containing hazardous materials, storage and disposal of waste oil, maintaining a monitoring program, providing A&R plans for the decommissioning of the existing landfill, Operation and Maintenance Manuals for existing sites and providing an annual report outlining activities pertaining to the water licence.

The Hamlet has an opportunity to greatly improve its compliance record with the construction of a new facility. Compliance will require that the new facility is properly monitored and maintained and that the existing facility is appropriately decommissioned. Damage caused by past irresponsible waste disposal can not be allowed to go on indefinitely. I expect that the Hamlet will fulfill the requirements laid out in the water licence issued by the Nunavut Water Board.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Stewart".

Scott Stewart
Water Resource Officer
INAC-Nunavut Field Operations
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Figure 1. Unsegregated waste in the Rankin Inlet landfill.



Figure 2. Unsegregated waste in the Rankin Inlet landfill.



Figure 3. Granular material deposited at the site of the new landfill for the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet.