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Sent by email to:

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Resolute Bay Water Licence Application

On behalf of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), I am pleased to submit the following comments on the water licence application for the Municipality of Resolute Bay.

1. Introduction

This submission, on the application for a municipal water licence by the Municipality of Resolute, is submitted on behalf of the Water Resources division of INAC.

This submission will be based on the water licence application received by the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) in January 2003. Past inspection reports have also been taken into consideration.

2. Conditions Applying to Water Use

The Municipality currently receives water from Char Lake, located approximately 1.5 km west of the town site. A causeway, intake line and pumpwell collect the water and bring it to the reservoir. The majority of the hamlet is on a gravity-fed utilidor system which is owned and operated by the Government of Nunavut (GN). Specifically, it is owned by Community Government and Transportation (CG&T) and operated by the Department of Public Works (DPW). The GN plans on eventually transferring the facilities to the Municipality, but no specific date as to when the transfer will take place has been provided.

INAC therefore believes that a water licence regarding the utilidor system in the Municipality of Resolute Bay should therefore be issued with the GN as the licensee, rather than the Municipality. The GN should remain the licensee until the facilities are completely transferred to the Municipality, at which point the water licence should also be transferred to the Municipality. This would follow the precedent that was set in Rankin Inlet in which DPW

owned and operated the facilities and thus were required to obtain a water licence.

Some of the buildings of the Municipality are not on the piped system and require trucked delivery. A water licence would therefore be required for this small quantity of water use.

The water is chlorinated by dual hypochlorite injection pumps at the water reservoir.

Current water consumption by the piped utilidor system is approximately 13,140 m³/year, and is expected to rise to 14,082 m³/year by 2008. Current water consumption by the trucked system is approximately 1,326 m³/year, and expected to rise to 1,391 m³/year in 2008. Total water consumption, both trucked and piped, will therefore be approximately 15,473 m³/year in 2008.

Assuming a 5 year water licence (2003 to 2008), INAC recommends that the annual volume of water pumped from Char Lake for the Municipality's water licence should not exceed 1,500 m³/year for the term of the licence. This value assumes that only the trucked water is to be licenced. Amounts for the recommended GN's water licence should be determined and commented on upon receipt of the GN's application for said water licence.

SNP station 1 should be designated as "raw water supply from Char Lake." It should be used to measure the monthly quantity of water pumped from Char Lake. Although only the trucked values are being drawn with respect to the Municipality's water licence, INAC recommends a requirement that both trucked and piped values be measured as they represent a cumulative drain on Char Lake.

INAC also recommends the installation of warning signs along Char Lake indicating that the lake is the source of the Municipality's drinking water.

3. Conditions Applying to Waste Disposal

With respect to sewage, the majority of the community's sewage is piped to the marine bay. The sewage is ground up before release, and the continuous bleeding of the pipes to prevent freeze-up effectively creates a dilution of the sewage. Otherwise, there is no treatment of the sewage. However, since this treatment system is part of the utilidor that is owned and operated by the GN, INAC again recommends that this issue be dealt with in a water licence issued to the GN rather than the Municipality's water licence.

For the buildings not on the piped system, the sewage is instead trucked to the Resolute Bay Airport's sewage lagoon located approximately 5 km northwest of the south camp area. Since the Resolute Bay Airport accepts the municipal sewage into its lagoon, it also accepts the liability and responsibility of the treatment of that sewage, and thus this is once more not an issue for the Municipality's water licence. However, INAC does

recommend that the water licence stipulate that all sewage must be disposed of in an approved sewage treatment facility.

The solid waste disposal site is located approximately 7 kilometers southwest of the town site. The waste is burned daily, while compaction and covering of the site is done on a monthly basis.

INAC recommends that SNP station 4 read as “runoff below the solid waste disposal area and prior to discharge into marine waters.” Monitoring should take place at station 4 on a monthly basis during periods of flow. The parameters to be monitored should not be too onerous for the Municipality.

4. Conditions Applying to Abandonment and Restoration

The proponent does not plan to abandon any of their current waste treatment facilities. Should the Municipality plan on abandoning any facility in the future, an Abandonment and Restoration Plan should be submitted to the NWB prior to abandoning any of the facilities.

5. Conditions Applying to Operation and Maintenance

INAC recommends a requirement for an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan for the waste disposal facilities be submitted to the NWB for approval within 6 months of the issuance of the licence. This O&M Plan should include - but not be limited to - provisions for the segregation and storage/disposal of hazardous waste such as petroleum or batteries.

6. Recommended Terms of Licence

The application form does not include any proposed term of licence for the Municipality of Resolute Bay. INAC recommends a 5 year term to allow enough time for the Municipality to establish a consistent compliance record.

As mentioned, because the utilidor system is owned by CG&T and operated by DPW, INAC believes that the Municipality is not the appropriate proponent to hold a water licence regarding that system as the Municipality has no control with regards to the operation and maintenance of the utilidor. INAC therefore requests that the GN apply for its own water licence with respect to this aspect of the water use and waste disposal in the Municipality of Resolute Bay. Once again, this follows the precedent that was set with the water licences issued for Rankin Inlet, and will ensure that those who control the facilities are ultimately responsible for them.

Finally, INAC recommends allowing all interested parties to review and comment on

the draft licence prior to it being issued. This will allow the Municipality of Resolute Bay to express any reservations they may have at this point. Hopefully, any reservations can be resolved early in the process and minimize any non-compliance issues in the future.

If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By: Michael Roy

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