

Northern Division
Environmental Protection Branch
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Our File: 4782 060

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Re: Hamlet of Whale Cove - New Municipal Water Licence Application - NWB File No. MWB3WHA

I have reviewed the above application on behalf of Environment Canada (EC) and offer the following comments for your consideration. Please accept my apologies for the lateness of this response.

First, the Hamlet is to be commended on submitting a thorough application, and for starting the licencing process. Some of the plans which are normally required under a water licence will address the concerns noted in our review. The following comments highlight concerns identified by the application and FSC report.

- An Operations and Maintenance plan needs to be developed which addresses handling of waste oil and hazardous wastes. Hazardous waste management should be improved (e.g. enclosed area for storage, and public awareness).
- The community should develop a contingency plan for spills prevention, reporting, and clean-up.
- The honey bag pit is located in a partially fenced area, and problems have been identified with waste oil drums being dumped within the enclosure. It should be assessed whether there is the potential for leakage of hydrocarbons into the environment, i.e. whether the drums need to be removed.
- Environment Canada recommends consideration of using mechanical compaction for volume reduction instead of burning, especially given the good availability of cover. Burning of domestic garbage (especially of plastics) can result in release of contaminants as products of incomplete combustion.
- Fencing of the solid waste site should be undertaken.
- General remedial measures should be taken for things such as the leaking barrels in the bulky waste area, and the items which have migrated down to the ocean's edge.
- A closure plan for the cleanup of the abandoned waste site needs to be identified and implemented.

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)
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