



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

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et du Nord Canada

Nunavut Regional Office
Operations Directorate
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File # 9545-2-3.3BC.MGUA
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Aug. 12/09

Via Email

Richard Dwyer
Licensing Administrator
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0E 1J0

Dear Richard,

**SUBJECT WATER LICENSE #3BC-MGU----, MCGILL UNIVERSITY,
MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCTIC RESEARCH STATION
PROJECT, QIKIQTANI REGION, NEW TYPE B WATER
LICENSE APPLICATION**

Please be advised that on behalf of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, I have completed a review of the above referenced McGill University submission to the Nunavut Water Board.

A Technical Review Memorandum (attached) is provided to the Board for consideration.

Should you have any questions regarding this submission, feel free to contact me at 867-975-4555 or David.Abernethy@inac-ainc.gc.ca.

Regards,
David W. Abernethy, Water Resources Regional Coordinator

Cc. Kevin Buck, Manager of Water Resources Division, INAC

Technical Review Memorandum

Date: Aug. 12/09

To: Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board

From: David Abernethy, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

RE: WATER LICENSE #3BC-MGU----, MCGILL UNIVERSITY, MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCTIC RESEARCH STATION PROJECT, QIKIQTANI REGION, NEW TYPE B WATER LICENSE APPLICATION

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On July 27/09 the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) distributed, to interested parties for review, McGill University's new application for a Type B Water License for water use and waste disposal associated with their Arctic Research Station Project.

McGill University will conduct seasonal research on spring hydrology and geomorphology in an arctic environment based from their research station that was established in 1960. This research station can accommodate up to fourteen (14) people, but on average accommodates four (4) to six (6) people. It is located at Expedition Fiord on West Central Axel Heiberg Island, having coordinates of 79°23'21" north latitude, 91°01'25" west longitude.

The following documents were reviewed in the preparation of this Technical Review Memorandum,

- June 11/09 Nunavut Planning Commission Conformity Review;
- June 11/09 English and Inuktitut Summary;
- June 11/09 Cover Letter;
- June 11/08 Water License Application;
- June 11/08 Supplemental Questionnaire;
- June 11/08 Map Location; and,
- June 11/08 Publication from Axel Heiberg.

B. RESULTS OF REVIEW

1. The potential for adverse environmental impacts results from this project appears to be minimal. INAC notes that there will be a small fuel cache to power skidoos and generators. In addition it is noted that camp graywater will be directed to a sump, solid wastes will be removed from site, and paper waste products will be burned. It is not clear how sewage will be managed.

C. COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

The following comments / recommendations are provided for the Board's consideration:

1. The Board should impose standard terms and conditions applicable to Type B 'camp' water licenses.
2. The Board should require McGill University to submit a spill contingency plan specific to their project. The Government of the Northwest Territories Spill Contingency and Reporting Regulations and associated guideline should be consulted when preparing this plan. As a minimum, this plan must include,
 - The name, address, and job title of the owner or person in charge, management or control;
 - The name, job title, and 24-hour telephone number for the persons responsible for activating the spill contingency plan;
 - A description of the facility, including the location, size, and storage capacity;
 - A description of the type and amount of contaminants normally stored at this facility;
 - A site map of the facility location;
 - Measures that will be implemented to prevent spills;
 - The steps to be taken to report, contain, clean-up, and dispose of contaminants in the case of a spill;
 - The means by which the spill contingency plan is activated;
 - A description of the training provided to employees to respond to a spill;
 - An inventory of and the location of response and clean-up equipment available to implement the spill contingency plan;
 - Applicable Material Safety Data Sheets;
 - A copy of the Government of Nunavut's 24-hour Spill Report Form; and,
 - The date the spill contingency plan was prepared.

3. The Board should require McGill University to submit a Closure and Decommissioning Plan specific to their project. This plan must include temporary, seasonal, and final closure and decommissioning procedures.
4. INAC is not opposed to the burning of paper products. However, McGill University should be reminded that there should be no open burning of plastics, wood treated with preservatives, styrofoam, electrical wire, asbestos, or demolition wastes.
5. McGill University did not provide a requested duration for their license. INAC recommends that the Board issue a license with a five (5) year term.

Prepared by – David Abernethy, Water Resources Regional Coordinator, INAC

Cc. Kevin Buck, Manager of Water Resources Division, INAC