



Our reference
File #9545-2-3BC.MGUA
CIDMS #397355

April 16, 2010

Your reference
3BC-MGU

Phyllis Beaulieu
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
Gjoa Haven, Nunavut
X0E 1J0

Sent Via Email

Dear Phyllis,

**Subject Water License #3BC-MGU----, McGill University, McGill
University Arctic Research Station Project, Qikiqtani Region,
New 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
Operations Directorate, Nunavut Regional Office
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

Attached.

Cc: Lou-Ann Cornacchio, INAC Water Resources Manager
Peter Kusugak, Manager of Field Operations

TECHNICAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

Date: Apr. 16/10

To: Phyllis Beaulieu, 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 License Application**

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On Mar. 18/10 the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) distributed McGill University's Jan. 22/10 resubmitted application for a Type B water license for the use of water and disposal of waste associated with their McGill University Arctic Research Station Project. The NWB requested representations from interested parties by Apr. 18/10.

McGill University will continue their arctic research studies from two camps at Expedition Fiord on West Central Axel Heiberg Island. Seasonal research has been carried out in this area by teams of 10-12 people since 1960. Their primary aim is to assess the impact of climate change on high arctic permafrost conditions and high arctic landscapes. Research activities include the study of glaciers, perennial springs, permafrost, geology, geomorphology, remote sensing, microbiology, climate change, and planetary analogues. The two camps are situated in close vicinity to each other and have airstrips capable of landing Twin Otter aircraft.

B. RESULTS OF REVIEW

On behalf of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), I am providing the following comments / recommendations for the Board's consideration,

1. General

- Standard license conditions for camp operations should be applied.

2. Spill Contingency Planning

- All reportable spills (as per the Government of Nunavut's Spill Contingency Planning and Reporting Regulations, Reg. #068-93) must be reported to Peter Kusugak, INAC Field Operations Manager. Peter can be contacted by telephone at 867 975-4295.

3. Abandonment and Reclamation

- McGill University should be required to submit a stand alone Abandonment and Reclamation Plan that addresses temporary, seasonal, and final closure and decommissioning procedures for their camp facilities.

4. License Term

- 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

Cc: Lou-Ann Cornacchio, INAC Water Resources Manager
Peter Kusugak, Manager of Field Operations