



GWICH'IN LAND AND WATER BOARD

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REASON FOR DECISION

File Number:	G03L3-001	Type:	"B" Water Licence
Applicant:	Hamlet of Fort McPherson		
Activity:	Water Use and Deposit of Waste for Municipal Purposes		
Board Meeting:	Thursday February 27, 2020		

With respect to this renewal, the Board has invoked subparagraph 36(1)(a)(ii) of the *Waters Act*. There was no public hearing held in association with this application.

BACKGROUND

The Hamlet of Fort McPherson's Type B Municipal Water Licence expires on March 2, 2020. On January 20, 2020 the Hamlet submitted to the GLWB a request for a six-month extension to its existing licence, indicating that additional time would be required in order for the Hamlet to prepare an updated Water Licence application, which must incorporate information pertaining to its proposed water treatment plant upgrade, as well as required information pertaining to the Hamlet's proposed landfill expansion as outlined in the Boards' July 24, 2018 Reasons for Decision and Board Direction.¹

DECISION

After reviewing the submission of the Applicant and the written comments and submissions received by the Board, and having due regard to the facts and circumstances, the merits of the submissions made to it, and to the purpose, scope, and intent of the MVRMA and the Waters Act and Regulations made thereunder, the Board has determined that Water Licence G03L3-001 be issued, subject to the terms and conditions contained therein. The Board's reasons for this decision are set out below.

- The Board is satisfied that adequate consultation has been conducted and that advice has been sought and considered in accordance with sections 63 and 64 of the MVRMA.

¹ See GLWB Online Registry for [G03L3-001 - New SWDF Reasons for Decision - Jul24_18.pdf](#)

- No significant or unmitigable public concern was made known to the Board.
- It is the opinion of the Board that the conditions attached to G03L3-001 pursuant to the *Waters Act*, will significantly reduce the potential environmental impacts resulting from water use and/or deposit of waste.
- The use of water and/or deposit of waste proposed by the Applicant is of a nature contemplated by the MVRMA and the *Waters Act*.
- The Board has notified the Applicant, through a statement included in the scope of this Licence, that compliance with the terms and conditions of this Licence does not absolve the Licensee from responsibility for compliance with the requirements of any other legislation.
- There is an obvious requirement that the Licensee provide municipal water and sewage services to its residents.
- The operation will likely contribute to the socio-economic well-being and economic development of the region.
- The renewal of Licence G03L3-001 appears to the Board to be in the public interest.
- The renewal of Licence G03L3-001 for a six month period will provide a reasonable length of time for the Hamlet of Fort McPherson to develop and resubmit to the Board a complete application.

CONCLUSION

Subject to the term and conditions set out in the Licence, and for the reasons expressed herein, the GLWB is of the opinion that the licensed undertaking for water use and waste disposal associated with the Hamlet of Fort McPherson can be completed by the Licensee while providing for the conservation, development, and utilization of waters in a manner that will provide the optimum benefit for all Canadians, and in particular, for the residents of The Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Water Licence G03L3-001 contains provisions that the Board feels necessary to ensure and monitor compliance with the MVRMA and the *Waters Act* and the Regulations made thereunder and to provide appropriate safeguards in respect of the Applicant's use water and deposit of waste.

SIGNATURE



February 27, 2020

Elizabeth Wright
Chair, Gwich'in Land and Water Board

Date