



March 28, 2018

AlecSandra Macdonald
Land and Water Technician
Gwich'in Land and Water Board
Box 2018
Inuvik, NT
X0E 0T0

Dear Ms. Macdonald,

**RE: Department of Infrastructure (INF)
Land Use Permits - G15L8-001 - G15L8-002
Peel River and Mackenzie River Ferry Landings
Local Area Monitoring Program Version 2.1
Request for Review and Comment**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has reviewed the plans at reference based on its mandated responsibilities under the *Environmental Protection Act*, the *Forest Management Act*, the *Forest Protection Act*, the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the *Waters Act* and the *Wildlife Act* and provides the following comments and recommendations for the consideration of the Board.

Topic 1: Water Quality Data

Comment(s):

Data regarding water quality of lakes and rivers in the NWT that is collected on a regular basis by industry, as part of their various monitoring programs, represents a large source of water quality knowledge. Such data could inform decision-makers about trends and natural variation in water quality in the territory, as well as the cumulative effects from multiple use activities within an area or region. However, in order to use this information to understand water quality conditions in the NWT, the data must first be available in an accessible format.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) ENR recommends that INF should submit water quality data associated with their Local Area Monitoring Program to the public registry in an accessible format (e.g., csv or spreadsheet file).

Topic 2: Metadata Standards

Comment(s):

It is important to provide metadata that provides context for the water quality data. Metadata refers to a description of data that was collected as part of a water quality sampling program, and includes field conditions and a description of laboratory analyses conducted. Metadata standards are required to ensure the proper use and interpretation of the data by the users.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) ENR recommends that INF complete the attached metadata template in the same spreadsheet as the associated water quality data and submit it to the Board for posting on the public registry in an accessible format (e.g., csv or spreadsheet file).

Comments and recommendations were provided by ENR technical experts in the NWT CIMP and the Inuvik Region and were coordinated and collated by the Environmental Assessment and Monitoring Section, Conservation, Assessment and Monitoring Division (CAM).

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Clancy, Environmental Regulatory Analyst at (867) 767-9233 Ext: 53096 or email patrick.clancy@gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,



Patrick Clancy
Environmental Regulatory Analyst
Environmental Assessment and Monitoring Section
Conservation Assessment and Monitoring Division
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories

Att: Example of Water Quality Sample Metadata Template