



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes
et du Nord Canada

3rd Floor Bellanca Building
PO Box 1500
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2R3

File: N7L3-1531

Hamlet of Sachs Harbour

June 10th 2009

To: Sarah McKenzie
Regulatory Coordinator
Northwest Territories Water Board
P.O. Box 2531
Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0

SEND BY FAX: (867) 678-2943

Re: Hamlet of Sachs Harbour - Water Licence Renewal Application

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has reviewed the Hamlet of Sachs Harbour Municipal Water Licence renewal application and supporting documents and offers the following comments for the consideration of the Board.

GENERAL

In general, the application lacks detailed information. Specific details on the design and operation of the solid waste facility, the sewage disposal facility and the water treatment plant facility would help the reviewer in the assessment of this application. Maps and/or pictures showing the locations of each facility and SNP sampling site would also be useful. Due to the lack of information contained within the application, INAC is basing its review on INAC's experience and familiarity of the site.

DRAFT LICENCE

INAC is very pleased with the Draft Licence and supports the NWT Water Board's consistent approach towards licensing the communities in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR). INAC would like to provide the following comments on the draft licence.

Definitions

"Modifications" – The Draft Licence mentioned that the term "Modification" does not include an expansion. INAC believes "expansion" should be included in the Modifications and details of any expansion should be provided to the Board.

Part B, Section 1

It is recommended that the Annual report contain information regarding the quantity of Hazardous Material stored on site and shipped off site during the previous calendar year.

Part C, Section 4

It is recommended that this Section be removed. Terms and conditions relating to the mandatory use of fish screens on water intake structures are not enforceable under the NWT Waters Act. Correspondence from Larry Dow, District Manager, DFO, and dated April 22, 2009 provides additional clarification on this issue.

Part D, Section 2

It is not clear how the Effluent Quality Criteria (EQCs) were derived. Although the wastewater disposal facility doesn't appear to be discharging directly to surface water, proper compliance limits should be defined within the water licence. Such EQCs should be protective of the receiving environment.

For the information of the Board, the Canadian Council for the Ministers of the Environment (CCME) recently finalized a Canada-Wide Strategy (the Strategy) to regulate Municipal Wastewater Effluent (MWW) across Canada. Within this strategy, a period of 5 years is allocated to identify National Performance Standards appropriate to remote or Northern conditions. A Northern Research Working Group (NRWG) co-chaired by INAC and Environment Canada as well as an Arctic Wastewater Group (Environment Canada lead) are working collaboratively to define EQCs for domestic wastewater discharges which are appropriate to the North. Results will be shared as they become available. For more information, please contact Catherine Mallet at Catherine.Mallet@inac.gc.ca or Anne Wilson at Anne.Wilson@ec.gc.ca.

For the purposes of this current application, INAC recommends that the derivation of EQCs follow the NWT Water Board's Guidelines for the discharge of Treated Municipal Wastewater in the Northwest Territories, 1992.

Part D, Section 2, 3, and 4

It should note "submitted to the Board and the Inspector for approval" instead of "the Board and an Inspector"

Part D, Section 7

INAC recommends that the clause be stated as follows:

"The Licensee shall not accept contaminated soil from commercial and industrial sources outside the municipality without the written consent of the Board".

Such wording would allow local residents to bring contaminated soil from areas outside the municipality for disposal, as well as provide the opportunity for commercial and industrial operations to dispose of acceptable quantities of contaminated soil in the municipal landfill.

Part D, Section 11

This condition is one that would not be enforceable as it is written. It is important to maintain appropriate terms and conditions within the Water Licence that fall within the authority of the NWT Waters Act. Terms and conditions regarding the methods used in the burning of solid waste are not appropriately contained within a water licence.

The Water Licence does not regulate solid waste disposal facilities but it does regulate aspects of the facility and what would potentially be contaminating the water. Any terms and conditions in the water licence must relate to the disposal of the residual ash from onsite burning and the proper management of solid waste such that any activities do not impact the water by leachate. This is clearly something within the purview of the Act and something that can be enforced. This could entail extra sampling parameters within SNP requirements.

Part E, Section 4

Recommend the addition to the word “temporary” within the section. The revised clause would now read

"a Hazardous Materials Management Plan that details how hazardous materials are to be *temporarily* and properly stored at, and removed from, the Solid Waste Disposal Facility".

SURVEILLANCE NETWORK PROGRAM

Part A

- Station Number 1531-2: INAC recommends sampling at the outer edge of the lagoon or where it's discharged. It is recommended that signage and GPS location of the sampling point be taken.
- An SNP station is recommended at the raw water intake to monitor the water quality coming into the Water Treatment Plant. Including SNP station 1531-1 for the raw water supply would maintain continuity with data gathered from previous monitoring.

Part B

- The following clause should be added:

"Water at Station number 1531-2 and 1531-3 shall be inspected monthly during periods of flow for the presence of an oily sheen. If a sheen is detected, then a sample shall be collected and analyzed for the presence of oil and grease.

- From the Canada Wide Strategy, Environment Canada, through the *Fisheries Act*, is looking at regulating MWW with 2 parameters, Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Carbonaceous Biological Oxygen Demand (CBOD). It is recommended that station 1531-2 be sampled for CBOD in addition to existing sampling requirements.

INAC recommends that the frequency of sampling be increased to twice a year, once immediately after break up and once prior to freeze up. This will allow a more accurate average and assure good quality control.

Part C

The following Section should be added, "The monthly and annual quantities of water pumped from Surveillance Network Program Station Number 1531-1 for municipal purposes shall be measured and recorded in cubic meters".

Part C and D

Part C and D were omitted from the licence. However, INAC recommends that the following Terms and Conditions be placed within the water licence:

- Part C Flow Measurement and Recording Requirements:
 1. The Licensee shall measure and record the monthly quantity of sewage effluent discharged to the Sewage lagoon.
- Part D. Report.
 1. The Licencee shall submit all of the information generated by Part B and Part C of the Surveillance Network Program annually as specified in Part B, Item 1 of the Licence.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact Catherine Mallet, Regulatory and Science Advisor, at (867) 669-2696 or Catherine.Mallet@inac.gc.ca, or Jan Davies, Water Resource Officer, at (867) 777-3662 or Jan.Davies@inac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Carole Mills
Manager
Water Resources Division
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada