

Permits

From: Miki Ehrlich <mehrllich@mvlwb.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2013 11:17 AM
To: 'Permits'
Subject: FW: removal of letter to the editor from public registry
Attachments: 12-09-2013 10-01-31 AM.PDF

Importance: High

Hi Elaine,

The email Zabey forwarded did not have the attachment – here it is. Please post the email as well as the attachment to:
MV2009L3-0007 – Permit-Licence-other issuances – Modification

Title: Newspaper article by NWT Chief Health Officer re: need for water filtration - Sep3-13

From: Zabey Nevitt [mailto:zabey@mvlwb.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2013 10:15 AM
To: permits@mvlwb.com
Cc: Wendy Alexander; Dennis Kefalas; Mark Heyck; Chris Greencorn; Miki Ehrlich
Subject: Re: removal of letter to the editor from public registry

Please add to public registry

On 2013-09-12, at 10:06 AM, Chris Greencorn wrote:

Mr. Nevitt,

I understand that the article ridden with false information will not be removed from the registry.
Please find the attached article that was also in the newspaper by Dr. A Corriveau that the City would like added to the registry.

Thanks!

Chris Greencorn, P.Eng.

Director
Public Works & Engineering
City of Yellowknife

From: Wendy Alexander
Sent: September-12-13 9:53 AM
To: Chris Greencorn
Subject: Fw: Fwd: removal of letter to the editor from public registry

Response from water board regarding removal of letter to the editor from our water licence public registry.

Wendy Alexander, P.Eng.
Manager, Public Works and Engineering
City of Yellowknife
Phone: 920-5689

Fax: 920-5668

From: Zabey Nevitt [<mailto:zabey@mvlwb.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2013 09:45 AM
To: Wendy Alexander
Subject: Fwd: removal of letter to the editor from public registry

Thank you for your email and concerns relating to a submission made to the MVLWB.

The letter you refer to will not be removed from the Board's public registry page relating to the City of Yellowknife's water licence.

The Board does not exclude any submission in relation to matters before us unless it contains unacceptable language - the Board will however only consider evidence that directly relates to the matter at hand and is within the mandate of the Board's decision making.

This letter was forwarded specifically to the Board by the author - that is why this is on the registry and others are not

If you have any further question please feel free to contact me.

Zabey
Zabey Nevitt
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
ph 867.766.7457 | Fax 867.873.6610 | cell 867.446.1156
zabey@mvlwb.com
www.mvlwb.ca

From: Wendy Alexander [<mailto:walexander@yellowknife.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2013 8:51 AM
To: Miki Ehrlich
Subject: removal of letter to the editor from public registry

Hello Miki,

Please provide an update on when we can expect the letter to be removed from our registry page. As previously mentioned it has nothing to do with our water licence and the writer has no credibility. There have been numerous articles about the water treatment plant in the newspaper over the last 2 years and none of them were posted on the registry. Why was this one posted?

Thanks,

Wendy Alexander, P.Eng.
Manager
Public Works & Engineering
City of Yellowknife
T: 867.920.5689
F: 867.920.5668

yellowknife.ca

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Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail and/or attachments.

Filtered water is safer water

I am responding to Andrew Kotaska's Aug. 28 guest comment in *Yellowknife* ("\$30M too steep to filter already clean water").

In September 2009, new water supply system regulations came into effect in the Northwest Territories under the NWT Public Health Act. In adopting this legislation, the Government of the Northwest Territories joined most other provincial and territorial jurisdictions in adopting Health Canada's Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality as a standard. The decision to adopt these guidelines was made after a thorough assessment of the costs and benefits.

In introducing the guidelines, Health Canada notes that: "These drinking water guidelines are designed to protect the health of the most vulnerable members of society, such as children and the elderly. The guidelines set out the basic parameters that every water system should strive to achieve in order to provide the cleanest, safest and most reliable drinking water possible."

The Yellowknife River provides drinking water for half of the population in the Northwest Territories. Although generally of very good quality, it remains vulnerable to contamination by human and animal waste, as well as silt and vegetation deposits. At the present time, city drinking water is not filtered, but is instead treated with chlorine, which protects against bacterial contamination.

However, high turbidity levels also require



GUEST Comment

Dr. Andre Corriveau is the chief public health officer for the NWT.



The NWT's chief public health officer, Dr. Andre Corriveau, says that although water from Yellowknife River is of generally good quality, filtered water is safer because even the best drinking source is at risk from contaminants.

proportionately higher levels of chlorine to achieve adequate disinfection, yielding potentially harmful disinfection by-products. Higher turbidity levels eventually render chlorination ineffective, leaving the municipal water supply vulnerable to bacterial contamination.

The annual spring run-off causes significant, although temporary, spikes in turbidity levels in the Yellowknife drinking water that exceed national standards. In fact, Yellowknife was under a boil water advisory for most of June 2004 because of excessive turbidity in the drinking water from the spring run-off.

Besides, chlorination alone does not adequately protect against protozoa such as giardia, cryptosporidium and other parasites. The best method for removal of parasites or other contaminants is filtration.

A filtration step at the water treatment plant thus mitigates these health risks. The absence of previously documented outbreaks of disease associated with Yellowknife's water supply is certainly no guarantee for the future (nor is it

proof that no such cases occurred in the past). The City of Victoria toxoplasma outbreak in 2004-05 (related to contamination of a "protected" watershed by wildlife) is a good case in point, estimated to have affected up to 7,700 individuals. Similarly, absence of previous problems did nothing to protect the public from an outbreak of cryptosporidiosis (more than 1,600 cases) in North Battleford, Sask., in 2001. In such incidents, those most affected are pregnant women, infants and people with weakened immunity.

A safe source of drinking water meeting current quality standards is in the best interest of all members of the Yellowknife community. While residents currently enjoy high-quality, safe water, steps can be taken to improve it. To this end, the City of Yellowknife has been working cooperatively with the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer to put in place plans for the establishment of an upgraded water treatment plant that meets legislated standards. Over the long-term, we will all benefit.