



December 5, 2016

File: MV2011L3-0001

Mr. Keith Morrison  
Town of Fort Smith  
P.O. Box 147  
FORT SMITH NT X0E 0P0

Email: [kmorrison@fortsmith.ca](mailto:kmorrison@fortsmith.ca)

Dear Mr. Morrison:

**Approval of Sewage Lagoon Operations and Maintenance Plan Version 1.0  
Town of Fort Smith – Municipal Water Licence**

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (the Board) met on December 5, 2016 and reviewed the Town of Fort Smith's (Town) Sewage Lagoon Operations and Maintenance Plan (Plan) Version 1.0, as required by Part I, item 1 and Schedule 4, item 1 of municipal Water Licence MV2011L3-0001 (Licence).

The Board hereby approves the Sewage Lagoon Operations and Maintenance Plan Version 1.0, as submitted.

The Town shall adhere to the commitments made in their responses to reviewer comments dated November 7, 2016, for the next revision of the Plan. In addition, the Town shall include the following details with the next revision of the Plan, which shall be submitted with the 2016 Annual Report, according to Schedule 1, item i) of the Licence:

- Current staff contact information (Schedule 1, item 1.b);
- Additional detail on regular reporting systems for spills and unauthorized discharges, maintenance and/or major modifications and closure and reclamation work (Schedule 1, item 1.e);
- Information about fencing and security measures to prevent public access. As a best practice, the Town should make efforts to place signage by the entrance to the facilities. (Schedule 1, item 1.h); and
- Sewage sludge (Schedule 1, item 1.m):
  - the design and intended use of the sludge drying pad,
  - estimated annual sludge production, and
  - end uses of sludge, including suggested criteria for use.

The Board commends the Town for their recent work to submit outstanding requirements under their Water Licence. The Board encourages the Town to work with the Government of the Northwest Territories – Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Board staff regarding the development of the details pertaining to sewage sludge management, treatment and disposal.

The full cooperation of the Town of Fort Smith is anticipated and appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Erica Janes at (867) 766-7466 or email [ejanes@mvlwb.com](mailto:ejanes@mvlwb.com).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. M. Adlem". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Floyd Adlem  
MVLWB, A/Chair

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Attached: Reasons for Decision



**Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board**  
**7th Floor - 4910 50th Avenue**  
**P.O. Box 2130**  
**YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P6**  
**Phone (867) 669-0506**  
**FAX (867) 873-6610**

### Reasons for Decision

Issued pursuant to section 72.25 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) and section 54 of the *Waters Act*

Type A Water Licence	
<b>Preliminary Screener</b>	MVLWB
<b>Reference/File Number</b>	MV2011L3-0001
<b>Applicant</b>	Town of Fort Smith
<b>Project</b>	Municipal Water Licence – Sewage Lagoon Operations and Maintenance Plan

### Decision from Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board Meeting of

December 5, 2016

With respect to this approval, notice was given in accordance with sections 63 and 64 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) and section 43 of the *Waters Act*. There was no public hearing held in association with this application.

### Background

The Town of Fort Smith (Town) submitted the Sewage Lagoon Operations and Maintenance Plan (Plan) on July 15, 2016. Part I, item 1 of municipal Water Licence 2011L3-0001 requires Board approval of a plan for the operation and maintenance of the Sewage Disposal Facilities (SDF); further requirements are detailed in Schedule 4, item 1 of the Licence.

The Plan underwent a public review; the Town responded to reviewer comments and provided additional information requested.

Table 1 below lists the components of the Plan required in the Licence and details on the adequacy of the submission.

**Table 1: Sewage Lagoon Operations and Maintenance Plan Completeness**

	Components of the Plan as required in Schedule 4, item 1 of the Licence	Board staff analysis of the adequacy of the Plan in addressing the component
a)	Site description showing specific location of the SDF, drainage and distance to water bodies by means of maps and drawings;	Adequate.

b)	List of people by positions and phone numbers who are responsible for the operation and maintenance for the SDF;	Based on Board staff comment 8, staff information should be updated in the next revision.
c)	A description of the normal operation and maintenance procedures for the SDF;	Adequate.
d)	Frequency of each of the operation and maintenance steps carried out (i.e., daily, weekly, annually, etc.);	Adequate.
e)	Site records including volumes of effluent discharged to the environment, Sewage volume collected, and details of any maintenance undertaken;	Based on Board staff comment 7, additional detail on regular reporting systems for spills and unauthorized discharges, maintenance and/or major modifications and closure and reclamation work, should be included in the next revision.
f)	Safety procedures for the operator,	Adequate.
g)	A description of weed and insect control;	Adequate.
h)	Methods of controlling access to the SDF such as signs and fencing;	Based on Board staff comments 3 and 6, information about fencing and security measures to prevent public access should be included in the next revision. The Town should make efforts to place signage by the entrance to the facilities.
i)	A list of chemicals used in the treatment process, if any;	Adequate; no chemicals used.
j)	A description of the frequency of inspection of dams, dykes and drainage courses;	Adequate.
k)	A description of procedures used for removal of floating materials from the SDF;	Adequate.
l)	Runoff and drainage control within and around the facilities, and restoration of erosion;	Adequate.
m)	A description of how Sewage sludge is managed, treated and disposed of.	Based on Board staff comments 2 and 5, the Town should provide the following additional details in the next revision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the design and intended use of the sludge drying pad,</li> <li>• estimated annual sludge production,</li> <li>• end uses of sludge, including suggested criteria for use, and</li> <li>• work with GNWT-ENR and Board staff regarding the development of the aforementioned details.</li> </ul> Revisions to the Plan should also be reported in future annual reports, as per Schedule 1 item i) of the Licence.

### **Public Review**

By October 7, 2016, a “no comment” letter was received from the Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Natural Resources (GNWT-ENR), and comments were submitted by Board staff. The Town’s deadline to respond was October 21, 2016; they submitted responses to comments on November 7, 2016.

### **Decision**

After reviewing the submission of the Applicant, the written comments received by the Board and the Staff report prepared for the Board, the Board, 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, has determined that the Sewage Lagoon Operations and Maintenance Plan satisfies Part I, item 1 and Schedule 4, item 1 of Water Licence MV2011L3-0001. For this reason, and as no significant concerns were made known to the Board, the Board has approved this Plan, as submitted.

The Town shall adhere to the commitments made in their responses to reviewer comments dated November 7, 2016, for the next revision of the Plan. In addition, the Town shall include the following details with the next revision of the Plan, which shall be submitted with the 2016 Annual Report, according to Schedule 1, item i) of the Licence:

- Current staff contact information (Schedule 1, item 1.b);
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The Board commends the Town for their recent work to submit outstanding requirements under their Water Licence. The Board encourages the Town to work with GNWT-ENR and Board staff regarding the development of the details pertaining to sewage sludge management, treatment and disposal.

Water Licence MV2011L3-0001 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 of the waters and/or deposit of waste affected by the Licence. The Board will provide additional referenced material or documents if requested in writing to do so.

Signed on behalf of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board



December 5, 2016

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Floyd Adlem, A/Chair

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Date