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November 19, 2012

Sahtu Land & Water Board
P.O. Box 1
Fort Good Hope
X0E 0H0

Attn: Tony Morris

RE: S12L3-006 - Water License Application - Charter Community of Deline

On the 29th of October, 2012 the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) invited parties to provide comments on the Water License Application from the Charter Community of Deline (CCD) for municipal use of water and deposit of waste in Deline, NT. The Deline Land Corporation (DLC) has reviewed the application and would like to provide the following comments.

Consultation

Stantec Architecture Ltd. has been authorized to act on behalf of the CCD to process and submit the required Water License Application to SLWB without any consultation of its renewal license to the residents of Deline. Public consultations are a required process, specifically to solicit comments from affected parties, as this is an important Water license for the community of Deline for safe drinking water.

To this date, there has been no notice, no public meeting, or any consultation whatsoever from Stantec Architecture Ltd or the Charter Community of Deline to the local residents.

Environmental Assessment & Adequate Monitoring

The current site of solid waste and sewage lagoon have posed a potential health risk to the community of Deline, as we have witnessed an unusual excess of plant growth at the northern shore of Little Lake in recent years. Wastewater discharge might not have been effectively managed as there is a ditch running from the lagoon to Little Lake, or by through aquifer accumulating throughout its operation and seeping into Little Lake. Both of these potential risks could indicate a factor in the excess of nutrients being introduced to stimulate the over-growth of

aquatic plants. Therefore, an environmental assessment needs to be conducted to review the impacts at the current site and the relocation site to minimize the risk to public health and the ecosystem of fish habitat at Little Lake.

Residents of Deline are still fishing in the summer and setting nets from Little Lake in the winter, and any further contamination that may be potential, could pose a serious health risk in long-term which should be minimize as much as possible.

An adequate monitoring of Little Lake should be conducted quarterly or yearly for adverse affects that the lagoon has had on its quality. Especially if it is sufficient to meet current and future needs of the population as it grows in the years to come. As such, a monitoring plan must be performed to ensure that any potential risk to damage or alter the lake be documented to evaluate its condition on a yearly basis.

Spill Contingency Plan not specific to Deline

We have reviewed the Spill Contingency Plan for the community of Deline and have identified that it is a generic plan that isn't specific to Deline. As with all communities of the Northwest Territories, each location has unique characteristics and unique challenges, and therefore, the spill contingency plan must be particular for Deline. The plan does include steps that the community can refer to, should a spill happen but unique circumstances have to be address if we have to act accordingly.

For example, the Great Bear Lake is our most precious resource for freshwater and we have an obligation to ensure the quality is maintained as much as possible. Most buildings and organizations are situated uphill from the lake and any spill from any area of the community would eventually be discharged into the lake. Every winter, we collect ice in buckets from the lake for drinking water as we do not heavily rely on water to be trucked to our residences. If a spill should happen, at best 90% might be recovered. However, 10% may be consumed that could damage our health, especially those with health problems.

Water Rights and Management

In section 20.1.5 of the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (SDMCLCA), it states that:

'Government retains the right to protect and manage water and beds of water bodies, and to use water in connection with such right, throughout the settlement area for public purposes including:

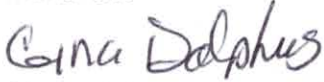
- (a) Management and research in respect of wildlife, and wildlife and aquatic habitat;
- (c) Protection of water supplies including community water supplies from contamination and degradation;
- (f) Research and sampling with respect to water quality and water quantity.'

Although the CCD has municipal responsibilities for the community, the SDMCLCA also assigns DLC, the responsibility to ensure that these 3 important points (a), (c) and (f) are addressed by our comments in this letter, for the SLWB to review in processing the CCD's water license application. It

is difficult to provide information at this stage, in terms of gathering information on the condition of Little Lake or the Great Bear Lake, however we feel that it is essential to know the impacts soon rather than later before any contamination that may occur in the future.

In conclusion, the Deline Land Corporation very much appreciates the opportunity to Comment on the Water License Application from the Charter Community of Deline. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 589-8100 or by email at dlc_president@gov.deline.ca.

Mahsi Cho



Gina Dolphus
DLC President

Cc. Lands and Resources Department