



Sahtu Land and Water Board

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September 26, 2022

File: S17L8-003

Melissa Fraser,
Regional Environmental Advisor, Environmental Programs,
Prairie and Northern Region Transport Canada
344 Edmonton St, Winnipeg, MB R3C 0P6

Sent by email

Dear Melissa Fraser,

Transport Canada – Norman Wells Airport Former Hydrocarbon Soil Treatment Facility – 2021 Annual Water Licence Report – Recommendations Supported

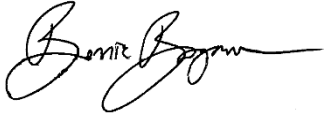
The Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) met on September 23, 2022, to consider the 2021 Annual Water Licence Report submitted on March 22, 2022, in accordance with Part B, Condition 11 and Schedule 1 of Licence S17L8-003. Based on reviewer comments and Board staff review, the Board was satisfied that the Licensee has met the requirements of the Licence. The Board acknowledges that site decommissioning can be completed in preparation for the Licence expiry in December of 2022 as the treated soil and leachate have met acceptable criteria as required by the Licence and specified in the NWT Arctic A Airport Transfer Agreement.

During public review of the 2021 Annual Report comments were received from parties seeking additional information on the background geochemistry of the area for certain parameters that have yet to demonstrate two years of stable trends. The Board is requesting the licensee to:

1. Include more trend analysis of the 2022 groundwater quality sampling events in the 2022 Annual Water Licence Report to determine if total and dissolved metal exceedances for uranium, iron and copper are naturally occurring or anthropogenic, and/or related to other historical background geochemistry.
2. Include additional discussion on the potential source of PFOS/PFOAs in the groundwater, whether the 2022 sampling showed increasing trends.
3. For both 1 and 2, provide recommendations for any future groundwater monitoring needs related to these background metals and PFOS/PFOAs that would be the responsibility of the GNWT, as owner of the site.

The ongoing cooperation of Transport Canada – Prairie and Northern Region is appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Bonnie Bergsma at bonnie.bergsma@slwb.com.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie Bergsma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bonnie Bergsma, M.Sc.
Regulatory Coordinator-Specialist
Sahtu Land and Water Board

Copy: Michael Brownlee, Transport Canada
Andrea Jenney, BlueMetric, Public Works and Procurement, Canada
Jeff Walker, GNWT-ENR Sahtu Region
Erin Goose, GNWT-ENR Yellowknife