



# Sahtu Land and Water Board

## Staff Report

<b>File No.:</b> S18X-003	<b>Application Type:</b> Type A Permit Extension
<b>Applicant:</b> Transport Canada, Prairie and Northern Region – Environmental Services, Contaminated Sites (TC-ES)	
<b>Project:</b> Groundwater Monitoring at the Norman Wells Airport Property	
<b>Date Prepared:</b> October 25, 2023	<b>Meeting Date:</b> November 7, 2023

### 1. Report Purpose

To inform the Board about an application made by **Transport Canada Prairie and Northern Region – Environmental Services, Contaminated Sites (TC-ES)** for a two-year renewal of their Type A Land Use Permit. This Permit was issued for the installation and monitoring and eventual decommissioning of two groundwater monitoring wells that were installed as part of an overall water quality monitoring program at the Norman Wells Airport property. These wells and this monitoring program are not associated with the groundwater monitoring wells that have been decommissioned for the completed Landfarm Project.

### 2. Background

**September 25, 2018** – The Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB or Board) received a new application for a Type A Land Use Permit from TC-ES to install and monitor two wells.

**October 22, 2018** – Presentation of Application to the Board for decision.

**September 1, 2023** – Initial request for two-year extension received by email.

**September 15** – email sent by staff for clarification.

**September 18, 2023** – Telephone call between TC (R. Campbell) and SLWB (B. Bergsma).

**September 19, 2023** – Permit extension request Application deemed complete and distributed to the Tuli't'a Distribution List on the ORS.

**October 12, 2023** – Review Comments due and received.

**October 17, 2023** – Proponent Responses due.

**November 7, 2023** – Application presented to the Board for decision.

### 3. Project Overview

Transport Canada divested the Norman Wells Airport to the Government of the Northwest Territories in the mid 1990's. As part of the agreement, TC was to address contamination at the airport through site remediation and treatment of hydrocarbon contaminated in a Landfarm constructed in 2003 and decommissioned in 2022/23.

Sampling at certain areas at the airport is ongoing as part of Transport Canada's overall groundwater monitoring program. The two additional wells that were installed as per this Permit will continue to monitor the groundwater to ensure trends continue to decrease and eventual final decommissioning can take place when groundwater analytical results meet applicable standards/criteria. The eastern

well is designed to sample for background metal concentrations, and the western well is intended for a standard suite of sampling with interest in hydrocarbon levels.

There were no changes proposed to the Project scope or methods. The Applicants' eligibility has not changed, nor are any fees required. The Applicant is requesting a two-year extension of the same Permit issued in 2018.

#### **4. Engagement**

Prior to the commencement of the 2018, 2020, and 2022 groundwater sampling work, TC engaged the Norman Wells Airport as an affected party to ensure any concerns were incorporated into the work program and that access to the airport property could take place in accordance with airport requirements. Board staff recommend that no further engagement is required for this Project.

#### **5. Comments**

There were no comments or issues identified with this application. One letter was submitted from the GNWT-Environment and Climate Change indicating they had no comments or concerns.

#### **6. Preliminary Environmental Screening**

The Board originally approved this application as exempt from preliminary screening because it met criteria in the *Exemption List Regulations*, Schedule 1, Part 1 (5), the construction, installation, or modification of an environmental scientific data collecting instrument, or its housing or enclosure, with a combined footprint of less than 100 square metres, that will not entail the deposit of waste into a water body.

#### **7. Land Use Permit**

The Applicant did not request any changes to conditions in Permit S18X-003. Board Staff prepared and distributed draft conditions for the Permit extension that were updated as follows:

- Updating the conditions to reflect the most recent Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template (Administrative Updates).
- Adding decommissioning to the Scope of activities (it was screened but not included as activity in original permit).

No comments were submitted for the proposed updated draft conditions.

#### **8. Recommendation**

Board staff recommend that the Board proceed with the regulatory process for this Land Use Permit extension including:

- a. Approve the request for two-year extension of Type A Land Use Permit S18X-003 with the new date of expiry October 21, 2025.
- b. Approve the draft Decision and Reasons for Decision Letter.

## 9. Reference Material Attached

- 8.1 Request / Application for Land Use Permit Extension
- 8.2 No Comments Letter from GNWT-ECC
- 8.3 Draft Land Use Permit Cover Page and Conditions
- 8.4 Draft Reasons for Decision and Decision Letter

Respectfully submitted,

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