

INSPECTION REPORT

ON

AKLAVIK, N.W.T.

BY

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INSPECTOR UNDER THE NORTHERN INLAND WATERS ACT

NORTHERN AFFAIRS PROGRAM

INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA

INUVIK, N.W.T.

Date of Inspection: Sept. 16, 1986

Water Licence: N3L4-0570

INSPECTION REPORT - AKLAVIK, N.W.T.

Introduction

An inspection was conducted at the Hamlet of Aklavik on Sept. 16, 1986 by Cory Chouinard, Assistant Resource Management Officer, Inuvik. The inspector was accompanied by Danny C. Gordon, Hamlet Foreman and Harry Gordon, D.P.W. Foreman.

A. Water Supply

The hamlet obtains its water year round from the Peel River channel. The intake facility is on the upstream end of the town site. Suspended solids are removed with the use of a Charcoal Sand Filter System and Alum. It is also chlorinated prior to distribution, levels average close to 1.5 mg/L. The sand filters are back washed occasionally to remove buildup. At the time of the inspection, the pump house was in an untidy state, dirty floors and table tops and small amounts of spilled chlorine on the floors. Harry Gordon, D.P.W. Foreman informed me that this was due to recent and soon to be performed maintenance on the building but said he would have something done about it soon. Only a small amount of chemical storage takes place in the pump station, most is stored in a separate building.

From the D.P.W. treatment plant the water is stored in an insulated, heated 231,850 litre (51,000 gal.) holding tank. During the frost free period, the water is then pumped out of the tank by the hamlets small pump house located next to the D.P.W. treatment plant. The hamlets pump house only services the community through the 75 mm and 100 mm piping laid throughout town for summer use. These water flow rates are not presently metered. During the winter months the water is distributed by a contract hauler. These flow rates are recorded as they get the water directly from the pump house/treatment plant. The contractor this year is Ron Storr, he has been hauling since Sept. 13, the day the hamlets pump went u.s.

B. Sewage Disposal

Approximately two-thirds of Aklavik, 221 buildings are on truck pump out, the remainder utilizing honey bags. Robert Storr has the pump out contract, while Danny Greenland collects the honey bags. Aklaviks grey water is discharged into the hamlets ditch system. The sewage pump out is still discharged in the old town dump, 1.2 km northwest of the hamlet and 250 metres from the Peel Channel, on the down stream side of town. The honey bags are deposited here as well. During March and April the pump truck did use the new site at Clearing Lake until spring made the road hazardous.

The new facilities are not in use. The contractor D. Storr & Sons are still working on the site, it is almost complete. The present site is totally unacceptable, reclamation will be necessary.

Reported discharge figures for sewage pump out during the summer are:

June - 444,607 litres (97,800 gal.)
July - 1,712,512 litres (376,700 gal.)
Aug. - 1,673,074 litres (368,025 gal.)

C. Solid Wastes

All solid wastes are disposed of at the dump located 1.2 km northwest of the hamlet. Peter Arey Sr., has the solid waste contract. Some effort is made in keeping the honey bags separate from the solid waste. Spring flooding seems to disorganize this effort.

D. Dams & Dykes

Not applicable.

E. Postings

There were no signs in place to indicate to the public the water supply or waste disposal areas.

F. Fuel Storage

The two areas where fuel is stored in Aklavik are; one, the Imperial Oil Fuel Farm 1.8 km northwest of the town site and two, the small Esso Service Station located on the south eastern end of town. At both places the tanks are bermed but not lined. There was no evidence of leaking tanks or spills.

G. Major Maintenance

The hamlet was winterizing the summer water distribution system. They were also waiting for parts on their pump that went u.s. on Sept. 13.

G.N.W.T., D.P.W. were preparing to have the treatment plant painted.

The new sewage and solid waste facilities at Clearing Lake, 2 km northwest of town, was still being worked on.

H. Surveillance Network Program

Margret Elanik, a local assistant at the hospital takes water samples once a month at the senior citizens home and at the hospital. They are forwarded to Inuvik for the analysis of bacteria levels. No problems encountered.

The hamlet has not submitted a Quarterly Report for the last two quarters.

I. Other Areas

Concerns noted by the inspector include:

- The hamlets pump house has only one pump in it, if it breaks down (as it did on Sept. 13) they have no backup pump or supply of spare parts. The town is then forced to use water truck services even for minor problems. There is no metering of summer water use.
- If by any chance the treatment plant was not able to pump water, the senior citizens home next door would not have any services at all. It seems they are hooked up directly to the treatment plant and have no storage tanks or hookup to the towns pipeline service, which would be able to utilize the 231,850 litre (51,000 gal.) storage tank in emergencies.

J. Records and Record Keeping

A record of the volume of water delivered by the tank truck is being kept, as well as the volume of sewage being removed by pump out.

K. Contraventions

Contraventions of the licence include; summer water use is not metered, also quarterly reports for 1986 have not been received.

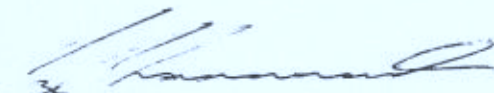
L. Official Onsite Discussion

The inspector discussed with both hamlet and D.P.W. representatives, the points raised under Section I - Other Concerns. Discussions were also had with Knute Hansen, Secretary Manager, about the quarterly reports overdue and a possible time schedule to have them in by. He will be looking into it. It was also noted that the hamlet has an emergency response plan.

M. Summary

The water supply facilities are in good condition except for those points noted in Section I - Other Concerns. The present disposal facilities are unacceptable, but the new facilities are currently being worked on.

The inspector would like to thank the hamlet personnel for their cooperation during the inspection.



Cory Chouinard
Assistant Resource Management Officer