



August 17, 2015

The Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger
Minister, Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Dear Mr. Miltenberger:

Re: Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk - Water Licence Renewal

In follow up to our telephone conversation of Wednesday, August 12, 2015, I am writing to confirm the Inuvialuit Water Board's concern regarding the failure of the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk to secure a water licence in accordance with the *Waters Act*. The Board has been in contact with the Hamlet for over two and a half years regarding the necessity for the Hamlet to apply for a licence to use water and deposit wastes. As discussed during our call, I am enclosing a time-line and copies of all correspondence between the NWT Water Board/Inuvialuit Water Board and the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk regarding the renewal of their water licence.

Initial contact with the Hamlet with respect to licence renewal requirements began in November 2012 through correspondence and contact with the Hamlet's SAO. Following an additional reminder in July 2013, during a Board visit to the community in August 2013, the Executive Director of the Board met with the Hamlet's SAO to offer advice and assistance with the licensing process.

The Hamlet's water licence was initially due to expire on November 20, 2013. To accommodate the Hamlet's plans to construct a new solid waste facility, the Board approved a seven month extension, prior to the initial expiry date, until June 30, 2014. However, no application for renewal was received and the licence lapsed at the end of June 2014. Since that time, despite several written and verbal communications with the Hamlet on this topic, the Board has still not received an application for a licence. As of today, the Hamlet has been operating a municipal water/waste service without a water licence for over 13 months.

In reviewing the attached correspondence it is clear that the Hamlet is focusing its failure to comply with the terms and conditions of its previous water licence and its failure to complete and submit an application for a new water licence, on staffing turnover and planning activities related a new solid waste facility. Despite ongoing efforts by the Board to offer in-house staff assistance and support, there appears to be little commitment by the Hamlet to focus the necessary resources to ensure compliance with the *Waters Act*.

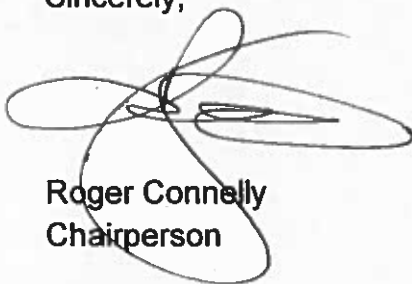
This matter was again discussed at our Board meeting on the morning of August 12, 2015 where the members clearly expressed their concerns - not only with the ongoing delays in receiving a water licence application from the Hamlet, but also the very undesirable precedent that the current situation sets for other municipalities. As a result of these concerns, the members directed that I bring this issue to your attention and request your assistance and support in identifying a timely and appropriate solution.

The Board has, throughout the past two and a half years, maintained communication on this matter with regional staff from both your department and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Both have been supportive in trying to encourage the Hamlet to comply with the legislative requirements. The recently appointed Water Resources Officer in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Inuvik regional office is fully aware of the matter and is planning to visit the community and meet with the appropriate representatives.

While it is unfortunate that the Board must contact your office and seek your assistance on what normally is a relatively straightforward matter, we fear a very negative precedent for other municipalities if this situation is allowed to continue.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Connelly', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Roger Connelly
Chairperson

Attachment

Cc. Mr. Ernie Campbell, Deputy Minister, ENR