

**Inuvialuit Water Board
Reasons for Decision**

Issued pursuant to *Waters Act*, S.N.W.T. 2014, c.18, ss 48(1)

Water Licence Number: N5L8-1848 (Type B)

This is the decision of the Inuvialuit Water Board, made on November 13, 2025 regarding an application made by:

**Shell Canada Limited
Suite 4000, 500 Centre Street S.E.
Calgary, Alberta T2G 1A6**

for the issuance of a Water Licence for the Remediation of the former Unipkat I-22 Wellsite Project and the use of water and the deposit of waste for a miscellaneous undertaking as described in the Water Licence application, Project Description Reports, supplementary information and the record of this proceeding.

Background:

Shell Canada Limited applied to the Inuvialuit Water Board (IWB) for the issuance of a Water Licence to use water and deposit waste associated with the Remediation of the former Unipkat I-22 Wellsite Project located approximately 115 kilometres (km) Northwest of Inuvik, Northwest Territories (NT). The Unipkat I-22 Wellsite Project was an exploratory natural gas well initially drilled in 1972 and 1973. Multiple investigative efforts have been undertaken at the Site, beginning in 1975. Further assessments were completed between 2007 and 2010, along with a remedial excavation in 2011. The 2011 remedial excavation targeted the camp sump, flare pit and drilling waste sump areas. Confirmatory sampling following the remediation indicated that contaminated soil remained in and North of the remediation footprint. Data from a 2024 assessment program indicated that contaminant(s) of potential concern (CoPC) concentrations in soil above generic guidelines remain. Overall, the primary contaminant(s) of concern (CoCs) for the site are petroleum hydrocarbon (PHC) Fraction F2, Type B hydrocarbons and barite (measured as true total barium). The Enhanced Thermal Conduction (ETC) remediation technology is proposed for the Site. ETC is considered the preferred remedial technology as it helps to speed remedial timeframes while reducing health, safety, security, and environment (HSSE) concerns, greenhouse gas emissions and waste generation.

The application was filed with the IWB on June 16, 2025. The application included a Project Description Report – Soil Remediation at the Former Unipkat I-22 Wellsite, Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Northwest Territories - 26 May 2025 prepared on behalf of Shell Canada Limited by WSP Canada Inc. Additional information was requested by the IWB and Shell Canada Limited provided additional information to the IWB on September 11, 2025. The IWB accepted the Application as complete on September 23, 2025.

The IWB gave public notice on September 29, 2025, in accordance with the *Waters Act*, S.N.W.T. 2014, c.18 at ss 43(1)(a) and 43(1)(b), that it received a Type B Water Licence application from Shell Canada Limited.

In accordance with IWB processes, a copy of the Water Licence application and supplementary information was provided to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC), a body created by the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA). Copies were also provided to the Government of the Northwest Territories, Departments of: Environment and Climate Change (ECC), Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), Health and Social Services (H&SS), Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) as well as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor), Inuvialuit Land Administration (ILA), Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC), Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC), Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) (WMAC - NWT), Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC), Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee (AHTC), Aklavik Community Corporation (ACC), Tuktoyaktuk Community Corporation (TCC), Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committee (THTC), Inuvik Hunters and Trappers Committee (IHTC), and Inuvik Community Corporation (ICC) for a 37 day review period (September 25, 2025 - October 31, 2025). Responses regarding the application were received from IHTC, ECCC and GNWT ECC and taken into consideration by the Board during the decision-making process related to the Licence.

Given the scope of the application and the limited public comment, the IWB determined there would be no public hearing.

Scope of the Licence:

Upon review of the application and evidence in the Public Register, the IWB has determined that the scope of the undertaking covered by the Water Licence includes the use of water and the deposit of waste associated with a miscellaneous undertaking to Remediate the former Unipkat I-22 Wellsite Project located approximately 115 kilometres (km) Northwest of Inuvik, in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) of the Northwest Territories with coordinates Latitude: 69° 11' 36.07" North and Longitude: 135° 20' 33.88" West.

Requirements of the *Waters Act*:

Shell Canada Limited has provided the IWB with an application and supporting information for its consideration as required by the *Waters Act*, S.N.W.T. 2014, c.18 at ss 34(1).

The IWB, as required by *Waters Act*, S.N.W.T. 2014, c.18 at s 4, has notified the Applicant of its obligation to comply with any and all other legislation pertinent to the activities authorized under this licence.

The IWB is in accordance with *Waters Act*, S.N.W.T. 2014, c.18 at ss 26(5)(a) by ensuring that the granting of a Water Licence to Shell Canada Limited will not adversely affect, in a significant way, any existing Licensee, providing the conditions of the Licence are met. There are no other applicants with precedence.

The IWB does not believe that any users or persons listed in the *Waters Act*, S.N.W.T. 2014, c.18 at ss 26(5)(b) will be adversely affected by the use of water and deposit of waste proposed by the Licensee provided that the Licensee operates in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the Water Licence.

The IWB is of the view that compliance with the Water Licence Terms and Conditions will ensure that the waste produced by the undertaking will be treated and deposited in a manner that will maintain water quality in the area and will be consistent with applicable water quality standards in accordance with the *Waters Act*, S.N.W.T. 2014, c.18 at ss 26(5)(c)(i).

The IWB is satisfied that the effluent standards set out in the Terms and Conditions of the Water Licence are consistent with the *Waters Act*, S.N.W.T. 2014, c.18 at ss 26(5)(c)(ii) and will protect the receiving waters and environment.

Decision to Issue:

The former Unipkat I-22 Wellsite Remediation Project water use and disposal of waste proposed by the Applicant is of a nature contemplated by the *Waters Act*.

The EISC issued a decision document on August 27, 2025, stating *“the development, if authorized subject to environmental terms and conditions recommended by the Screening Committee, will have no such significant negative impact and may proceed without environmental impact assessment and review under this Agreement”* [IFA s.11.(17)(b)].

No objection by any person to the issuance of this Licence was made known to the IWB.

In accordance with the *Waters Act*, S.N.W.T. 2014, c.18 at ss 37(b)(i), the IWB has the authority to issue this Water Licence.

The IWB has reviewed the Water Licence Application and all written comments received by the IWB. Upon consideration of the facts and circumstances, the merits of the submissions made to it and the purpose, scope and intent of the *Waters Act* and the Waters Regulations, the IWB has determined that it can issue Water Licence N5L8-1848 to Shell Canada Limited subject to the Terms and Conditions contained therein.

The Board made a motion to include a security deposit for this project in the amount of two hundred thirty-three thousand five hundred dollars (\$233,500.00) as specified by Part B, Item 10 of the licence. A security deposit recommendation was provided by the GNWT ECC in written comments received during the application review and comment process. The security deposit is to be made payable to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

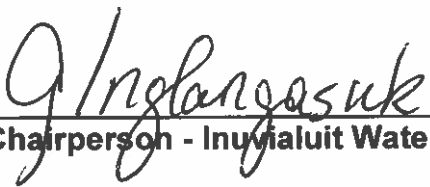
Water Licence Number N5L8-1848 contains Terms and Conditions the IWB considers necessary to ensure compliance with the *Waters Act* and the Waters Regulations and provides appropriate safeguards for Shell Canada Limited former Unipkat I-22 Wellsite Remediation Project use of water and deposit of waste associated with the miscellaneous undertaking.

For all the above reasons the IWB has issued Water Licence N5L8-1848 to Shell Canada Limited in accordance with the *Waters Act*, S.N.W.T. 2014, c.18 at s 27 for the former Unipkat I-22 Wellsite Remediation Project use of water and deposit of waste.

Term of the Water Licence:

The IWB has determined that the Term of the Water Licence will be for a period of fifteen (15) years from November 14, 2025, to November 13, 2040.

SIGNED this 13th day of November 2025 on behalf of the Inuvialuit Water Board.


Chairperson - Inuvialuit Water Board