

Hamlet of Paulatuk
Type B Municipal Water Licence Renewal (N7L3-1619)
RPD Comments
Contact: Novelyne Bordey/Ariel Greenblat
Due: May 15, 2026

Topic: GNWT-ECC Contact Information

Comment: The Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC), Government of the Northwest Territories has reviewed the application at reference based on its mandated responsibilities. ECC has provided comments and recommendations on the Online Review System for the consideration of the Inuvialuit Water Board.

Recommendations: Please contact Novelyne Bordey, Regulatory and Science Advisor, with the Water Regulatory Division, at Novelyne_Bordey@gov.nt.ca if you have any technical questions.

Please contact GNWT_EA@gov.nt.ca with any general questions or concerns.

Topic: Household Waste Management (Ref. File #1 Schedule C – Application for Water Licence Renewal)

Comment: Section 8 of Schedule C states that approximately 300 m² of household waste is buried in the landfill annually; however, Section 2.2 of the Solid Waste Disposal Facilities Operation and Maintenance Plan (File #8) states that household wastes are generally placed in the active cell and remain unburied.

Recommendations: The Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Environment and Climate Change (GNWT-ECC), recommends that the information in Schedule C and the corresponding plan be confirmed and updated to ensure they reflect the same information.

Topic: Lagoon Decanting Location (Ref. File # 7 Sewage Waste Disposal Facilities Operation and Maintenance Plan)

Comment: In Section 3.1 of the Sewage Waste and Disposal Facilities Operation and Maintenance Plan it states that “water should not be drawn from the surface of the lagoon, not the base”. The Government of Northwest Territories, Department of Environment and Climate Change (GNWT-ECC) understands this to be a typo.

Recommendation: GNWT-ECC recommends correcting the above to sentence to say “water should be drawn from the surface of the lagoon, not the base”.

Topic: Effluent Sampling Frequency (Ref. File # 7 Sewage Waste Disposal Facilities Operation and Maintenance Plan)

Comment: It is unclear how frequently effluent discharged from the lagoon should be sampled. Section 3.5 states that the lagoon must be sampled monthly during open water season. In Table 5 it states that effluent discharge should be sampled twice annually.

Recommendation: GNWT-ECC recommends clarifying how frequently effluent discharged from the lagoon should be sampled (SNP Location 1619-2).

Topic: Sampling Equipment Checklist (Ref. File # 7 Sewage Waste Disposal Facilities Operation and Maintenance Plan)

Comment: Section 3.6.1.1 lists equipment required for sampling collection. The list does not include deionized water for field blank collection, assuming the Hamlet of Paulatuk (Paulatuk) does not have access to deionized water. The list does not include travel blanks.

Recommendation: GNWT-ECC recommends updating the list to include deionized water and travel blanks.

Topic: Table 4 Typo (Ref. File # 8 – Solid Waste Disposal Facilities Operation and Maintenance Plan)

Comment: Section 4.1, Table 4 in the Solid Waste Disposal Facilities Operation and Maintenance Plan caption states "...at Sewage Treatment Facility", however, Table 4 outlines the frequency of inspection and maintenance activities at the Solid Waste Facility.

Recommendation: GNWT-ECC recommends changing the caption of Table 4 to "Frequency of Inspection/Maintenance Activities at Solid Waste Facility".

Topic: Appendices (Ref. File #9 – Hazardous Waste Management Plan)

Comment: In the Hazardous Waste Management Plan, Appendix A follows Appendix E and is duplicated after Appendix B. Appendix A on page 134 is incorrectly titled. Document appendices are also not accurately reflected in the Table of Contents. In addition, Figure 1 on page 133 is incorrectly labeled and duplicated on page 135.

Recommendations: GNWT-ECC recommends reviewing the order and organization of document appendices and placement of the second Figure 1 on page 133.

Topic: Abandonment and Restoration Plan (Ref. File #4 – Questionnaire for Municipal Undertaking)

Comment:

The Questionnaire indicates that the Hamlet currently has an Abandonment and Restoration Plan. As requested in the Questionnaire, a copy of this plan should be included as an attachment. GNWT-ECC notes that Appendix J of the Questionnaire only contains an email with the Hamlet's response to the Inuvialuit Board's Information Request and does not include a copy of the full Abandonment and Restoration Plan.

Recommendation:

GNWT-ECC recommends that Paulatuk attach a copy of its Abandonment and Restoration Plan to the Questionnaire if one exists.

Topic: Scale Plan Drawings (Ref. File #4 – Questionnaire for Municipal Undertaking)

Comment:

GNWT-ECC notes that the figures provided in Appendix D of the Questionnaire do not include the following details:

- For all decant and siphon mechanisms, including those associated with sewage treatment facilities.
- All retaining structures (dimensions, materials of construction, etc.) were also not included in the scale plan drawings provided in Appendix D of the Questionnaire.
- All sources of seepage presently encountered in the vicinity of these areas.
- Volume of each seepage flow (m³/day).

Recommendation:

GNWT-ECC recommends that Paulatuk provide the necessary details noted above, as required, and include them in the Scale Plan Drawing(s) of the Questionnaire.

Topic: Haz Mat Database (Ref. File #2 and 3 – IWB Add Info Request)

Comment:

File 2 and 3 of the Hamlet's submission contains the Inuvialuit Water Board's (the Board) Information Request (IR) used to assess application completeness. Section B of the IR identifies that the Hazardous Materials (Haz Mat) Database provided in Appendix C of the Questionnaire covers the years 2016–2020. The Board has requested a more up-to-date Haz Mat Database, such as for the years 2021–2024 or clearly state that no Haz Mat Database is available after 2020.

GNWT-ECC notes that the Hamlet's submission for the Water Licence Renewal includes the outdated 2016–2020 Haz Mat Database and has not addressed the Board's request for more current information.

Recommendation:

GNWT-ECC recommends that Paulatuk submit an updated Haz Mat Database covering more recent years (e.g., 2021–2024) or provide a clear rationale explaining why a more current database cannot be provided.