

**Inuvialuit Water Board  
Reasons for Decision**

Renewed pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the  
*Waters Act, S.N.W.T. 2014, c.18*

Water Licence Number: N7L3-1619 (Renewal)

This is the decision of the Inuvialuit Water Board (IWB), made on June 15, 2026 regarding an application made by:

Hamlet of Paulatuk  
P.O. Box 98  
Paulatuk, NT X0E 1N0

for a Renewal of Water Licence N7L3-1619.

The Hamlet of Paulatuk applied for a Water Licence N7L3-1619 Renewal for the use of water and the deposit of waste for municipal undertakings as described in the Water Licence renewal application, supplementary information and the record of this proceeding.

**Background:**

The Hamlet of Paulatuk applied to the IWB for a Water Licence N7L3-1619 Renewal to use water and deposit waste associated with municipal undertakings. The application was filed with the IWB on October 2, 2025. The package included Schedule C - Application, Questionnaire for Municipal Undertaking and supporting information for the Water Licence Renewal. Additional documentation in support of the application was requested by the IWB on October 15, 2025 and February 4, 2026, and the application was subsequently accepted as complete by the IWB on April 7, 2026.

In accordance with Subsection 43. (1)(a) of the *Waters Act*, the IWB issued Public Notices on April 13, 2026, indicating that it received a Type B Water Licence Renewal Application from the Hamlet of Paulatuk. There was no public hearing held in connection with this application.

A copy of the Water Licence renewal application and supplementary information was provided to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC) as required under section 3.2.7 of the Environmental Impact Screening Guidelines. Copies were also provided to the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department 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), the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Inuvialuit Land Administration (ILA), Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC), Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC), Wildlife Management Advisory Council NWT (WMAC NWT), Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC), Paulatuk Community Corporation (PCC), and Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee (PHTC) for a thirty-nine (39) day review and comment period (April 7, 2026 - May 15, 2026). Comments were received from EISC on April 7, 2026; PCC and PHTC on May 5, 2026; and ECC

and DFO on May 15, 2026 and taken into consideration by the Board during the Water Licence Renewal proceedings.

**Scope of the Licence:**

Upon review of the application and evidence in the public register, the IWB has determined that the scope of the undertakings covered by the Water Licence includes the use of water to be taken from the New Water Lake, operation of the municipal Solid Waste Disposal Facilities, operation of the municipal Sewage Waste Disposal Facilities and any closure and reclamation activities associated with the aforementioned facilities.

**Requirements of the *Waters Act*:**

The IWB, as required by Section 4 of the *Waters Act*, has notified the Applicant of their obligation to comply with any and all other legislation pertinent to the activities authorized under this licence.

The IWB is in accordance with Subsection 26. (5)(a) of the *Waters Act* by ensuring that the granting of the Water Licence to the Hamlet of Paulatuk will not adversely affect, in a significant way, any existing Licensee, providing the conditions of the Licence are met.

The IWB does not believe that any other users or persons listed in Subsection 26.(5)(b) and 27.(2) of the *Waters Act* will be adversely affected by the use of waters or the 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 subsection 26.(5)(c)(i) of the *Waters Act*.

The IWB is satisfied that the effluent standards set out in the Terms and Conditions of the Water Licence are consistent with subsection 26. (5)(c)(ii) of the *Waters Act* and will protect the receiving waters and environment.

The Hamlet of Paulatuk has provided the IWB with its Schedule C Application, Questionnaire for a Municipal Undertaking and supporting information for its consideration as required by Section 34. (1) of the *Waters Act*.

**Decision to Renew:**

Under the authority of the *Hamlets Act* the Hamlet of Paulatuk provides water, municipal solid and sewage waste services to its residents.

The EISC issued a decision document on November 28, 2025, stating "*The EISC has reviewed your PSQ and has determined that your project does not meet the definition of development as defined under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and therefore will not be subject to an Environmental Impact Screening (EIS)*".

The water use and disposal of waste proposed by the Licensee is of a nature contemplated by the *Waters Act*.

In accordance with Section 37. (b)(i) of the *Waters Act* the IWB has the authority to renew this Water Licence.

The IWB has reviewed the Water Licence renewal 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 renew Water Licence N7L3-1619 to the Hamlet of Paulatuk subject to the Terms and Conditions contained therein.

Water Licence Number N7L3-1619 contains Terms and Conditions the IWB considers necessary to ensure compliance with the *Waters Act* and the Waters Regulations and provide appropriate safeguards for the Hamlet of Paulatuk's water use and deposit of waste associated with municipal undertakings.

For all of the above reasons the IWB has renewed Water Licence N7L3-1619 to the Hamlet of Paulatuk in accordance with Sections 26. (2)(a), 27 and 37 of the *Waters Act* for the use of water and deposit of wastes.

**Term of the Water Licence:**

The IWB has determined that the term of the Water Licence will be for five (5) years.

**SIGNED**, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June 2026 on behalf of the Inuvialuit Water Board.

  
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Chairperson, Inuvialuit Water Board