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May 28, 2020

File: MV2019L3-0010

Mike Auge
Director of Public Works
Town of Hay River
HAY RIVER NT X0E 1G1

Sent via email

Dear Mike Auge:

**Re: Preliminary Screening Determination
Town of Hay River – Municipal Water Licence Renewal**

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (the Board) met on May 28, 2020 and made a decision on the preliminary screening for the Town of Hay River's (Town) renewal Application for municipal Water Licence MV2019L3-0010.

Based on the evidence provided, the Board confirmed that your Application is exempt from preliminary screening under Schedule 1, Part 1, section 2 of the Exemption List Regulations of the MVRMA which states:

A development, or part thereof, for which renewal of a permit, licence or authorization is requested that

- a) Has not been modified; and
- b) Has fulfilled the requirements of the environmental assessment process established by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* or the *Environmental Assessment Review Process Guidelines Order*.

In order to provide greater coherence and administrative efficiency, the Board has combined, but not altered the contents of, the previous two screenings conducted for the Town's municipal operations, into a single Preliminary Screening Exemption Form, dated May 28, 2020.

The Preliminary Screening Exemption Form, including the Board's Reasons for Decision, is attached. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Erica Janes at (867) 766-7466 or email ejanes@mvlwb.com.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mavis Cli-Michaud".

Mavis Cli-Michaud
MVLWB, Chair

Copied to: Judy Goucher, SAO, Town of Hay River
Renee White, KBL Environmental
Distribution List

Attached: Preliminary Screening Exemption Form – May 28, 2020

Preliminary Screening Exemption Report Form

Preliminary screener: MVLWB Reference / File number: MV2019L3-0010 TITLE: Type A Municipal Water Licence ORGANIZATION: Town of Hay River MEETING DATE: May 28, 2020	EIRB Reference number:
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Type of Development:
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- New
- Amend, EIRB Ref. #
- Requires permit, licence, or authorization
- Does not require permit, licence, or authorization

Blue text indicates content originally from the 2001 Screening; red text indicates content originally from the 2004 Screening.

Project Summary:

History of Screening

This Preliminary Screening Report combines, but does not alter, the contents of two previous Preliminary Screenings done for the Town of Hay River's (Town) municipal operations. The first Screening was brought to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB or Board) in August 2001 for Licence N1L3-0053. A Project Summary was not included in the 2001 Screening, but it is clear from its contents that it was meant to encompass all municipal operations under that Licence.

When the Town applied to amend their Licence to include the operation of a Hydrocarbon-contaminated Soil Treatment Facility (Biotreatment Pad) at the Solid Waste Disposal Facilities in March 2004, a new Screening was conducted. The Project Summary for the 2004 Screening was: "Amendment to town's current water license for an addition of a Biotreatment Pad to treat hydrocarbon contaminated soil." It is clear from the contents of this Screening that it was meant to only include Biotreatment Pad operations.

When the Town applied to renew Licence N1L3-0053 with Licence MV2009L3-0005 on June 16, 2009, the Board determined that the Application was exempt from Preliminary Screening, based on the 2004 Screening alone; the initial 2001 Screening was not referenced.

Current Application

The Town operates municipal Water and Waste facilities to serve their residents, in addition to residents of nearby communities. These facilities comprise a Water Treatment Plant; Sewage Disposal Facilities; and Solid Waste Disposal Facilities, which includes the operation of a Biotreatment Pad to treat hydrocarbon-contaminated soil. The Town has applied for renewal of their Licence, with no proposed changes to activities from those licenced currently.

As the current application for renewal of the Town's Licence (MV2019L3-0010) does not propose any additional activities or impacts to be screened, the two historical screenings have been combined into this single Screening for coherence and administrative efficiency, and the content of either Screening has not been materially altered (i.e. only minor grammatical edits have been made). The contents of this combined Screening are colour-coded to indicate the origin of each component

Scope:

No scope was included in the 2001 Screening. The scope in the 2004 Screening was "License entitles the Town of Hay River to use water and dispose of waste for municipal purposes at the Town of Hay River, Northwest Territories, located at: 64°51' N, 115°43' W."

As stated in Licence MV2009L3-0005, the scope comprises use of Water and disposal of Waste for municipal purposes at the Town of Hay River, NT, located at 64°51' N, 115°43' W, and there are no proposed changes to the scope for Licence Application MV2019L3-0010.

Land Use Eligibility - Section 18 Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations:

Type of Disposition

Disposition Number(s)

- Mineral Claims
- Prospecting Permit (s)
- Mineral Leases
- Oil and Gas: EL/SDL/PL
- Quarry Permit
- Timber Permit
- Other:

Principal Activities (related to scoping) (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration | <input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Installation | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Abandonment |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expansion | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal | <input type="checkbox"/> Harvesting |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operation | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarry | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repair | <input type="checkbox"/> Linear / Corridor | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sewage | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Intake | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | |

Principal Development Components (related to scoping) (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access Road | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waste Management |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> construction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> disposal of hazardous waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> abandonment/removal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> waste generation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> modification e.g., widening, straightening | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sewage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Automobile, Aircraft or Vessel Movement | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> disposal of sewage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blasting | <input type="checkbox"/> Geoscientific Sampling |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Trenching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burning | <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond drill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burying | <input type="checkbox"/> Borehole core sampling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Channelling | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulk soil sampling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cut and Fill | <input type="checkbox"/> gravel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cutting of Trees or Removal of Vegetation | <input type="checkbox"/> hydrological Testing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dams and Impoundments | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> construction | <input type="checkbox"/> fertilization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> abandonment/removal | <input type="checkbox"/> grubbing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> modification | <input type="checkbox"/> planting/seeding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ditch Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> reforestation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drainage Alteration | <input type="checkbox"/> scarify |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drilling other than Geoscientific | <input type="checkbox"/> spraying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ecological Surveys | <input type="checkbox"/> re-contouring |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excavation | <input type="checkbox"/> Slashing and removal of vegetation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Explosive Storage | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Testing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Storage | <input type="checkbox"/> Stream Crossing/Bridging |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topsoil, Overburden or Soil | <input type="checkbox"/> Tunnelling/Underground |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fill | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> disposal | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> removal | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> storage | |

NTS topographic map sheet numbers:

85B

Latitude / longitude and UTM system:

MV2019L3-0010 – Town of Hay River, Hay River, NT

60° 51' N & 115° 43' W

Nearest community and water body:
Hay River / Hay River & Great Slave Lake

Land Status (consultation information)

Free Hold/Private Commissioner's/Territorial Lands Federal Crown Land Municipal Land

Transboundary/Transregional Implications

British Columbia Alberta Saskatchewan Yukon
 Nunavut National Park Inuvialuit Settlement Region
 Wek'èezhii Gwich'in Sahtu

Type of transboundary implication: Impact / Effect Development

Public concern: *None expressed at this time.* _____
(Describe.)

Physical - Chemical Effects

Impact

Mitigation

1) Ground Water

- water table alteration
- water quality changes

Eventual Sewage Decant into a series of wetlands leading to Great Slave Lake. The wetlands are designed to treat sewage prior to its entry into the environment.

Certified clay compacted liner installed to retain the waste. The liner has been installed in accordance with acceptable construction practices and the intent of the design.

Dedicated groundwater wells will be installed and monitored for Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons, BTEX, metals, pH and electrical conductivity.

infiltration changes

other:

The Hay River water management facilities include many waste holding facilities, pump out stations and other infrastructure.

N/A

Impact

Mitigation

2) Surface Water

- flow or level changes
- water quality changes

Dependant on the quality of the water discharged from the decant structure at the lagoon and subsequent wetlands the water quality is subject to frequent change.

The biotreatment pad is designed for optimum waste management. Routine monthly testing included in the revised SNP for hydrocarbons at SNP 0053-5.

water quantity changes

drainage pattern changes

The lagoon is designed to compensate for excessive precipitation. The site of the solid waste facility and its design are built for optimum waste management. Some concerns exist regarding leachate into Hay River. Standard conditions should be sufficient mitigation measures. Sludge is pumped to a dry pond adjacent to the sewage lagoon.

Routine monthly testing included in the revised SNP for hydrocarbons at SNP 0053-5.

temperature

wetland changes/loss

Changes to wetlands will take place as the sewage treatment system relies on wetlands for

the treatment of sewage.

Water collected from biotreatment pad will be directed to the Town's water treatment system. The levels will be below a visible sheen, or 5 mg/L.

other:

N/A

Impact
3) Noise

Mitigation

noise in/near water

noise increase

Level of noise should be consistent with the existing licence. No mitigation offered.

other:

N/A

Impact
4) Land

Mitigation

geologic structure changes

soil contamination

Land selection is critical in the establishment of holding facilities for hazardous wastes. A section in the licence concerning operation and maintenance of the sludge and hazardous materials will be added to the existing licence.

All soil containing hydrocarbons will be treated to ensure the protection of water and soil resources. The criteria are taken from the CCME *Canadian Wide Standards for Soil Containing Hydrocarbons*.

buffer zone loss

soil compaction and settling

destabilization/erosion

permafrost regime alteration

explosives/scarring

other:

N/A

Impact
5) Non-renewable natural resources

Mitigation

resource depletion

The treating of the contaminated soil will allow the resource to be reused as a capping material on the landfill cells.

other:

N/A

Impact
6) Air/climate/atmosphere

Mitigation

other:

Noxious odors emitted from the Sewage Treatment Facility are mitigated by the sewage

lagoon's geographic placement.

Odour: Odour should be limited to landfill and should be no worse than normal operations from the Waste Disposal Facilities.

N/A

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Impact

1) Vegetation

- species composition
- species introduction
- toxin/heavy accumulation

Mitigation

Toxins may accumulate in the substrate of the sewage containment and treatment facilities. The O & M plan should contain clauses regarding its proper deposition.

Routine testing for metals to monitor the potential of heavy metal accumulation.

other: Linear Migration routes, habitat fragmentation

N/A

Impact

2) Wildlife and Fish

- effects on rare, threatened or endangered species
- fish population changes
- waterfowl population changes

Mitigation

Waterfowl frequent sewage wetlands. No mitigation offered.

The leachate collection pond will be fenced and screened to prevent birds from being potentially oiled.

- breeding disturbance
- population reduction
- species diversity change
- health changes
- behavioural changes
- habitat changes / effects
- game species effects
- toxins/ heavy metals
- forestry changes
- agricultural changes
- other:
- N/A

Interacting Environment

Impact

1) Habitat and Communities

- predator-prey
- wildlife habitat/ecosystem composition changes
- reduction/removal of keystone or endangered species
- removal of wildlife corridor or buffer zone
- other:
- N/A

Mitigation

Impact

2) Social and Economic

- planning/zoning changes or conflicts
- increase in urban facilities or services use
- rental house
- airport operations/capacity changes
- human health hazard
- impair the recreational use of water or aesthetic quality
- affect water use for other purposes
- affect other land use operations
- quality of life changes
- public concern
- other:
- N/A

Mitigation

The Town of Hay River has amended its bylaw, #1812, to ban landfarming within its boundaries. Existing landfarms will no longer be allowed to biotreat soil within the Town's boundaries.

The Town of Hay River has adequately forecasted the increase of facility use, impacts associated with increase in population and stresses to facility design can be addressed in the Town's Operation and Maintenance Plans.

No mitigation.

The waste facilities are designed to avoid the impairment of recreational facilities by strategic geographic location.

The Town of Hay River has amended its bylaw, # 1812, to ban landfarming within its boundaries. Existing landfarms will no longer be allowed to biotreat soil within the Town's boundaries.

Impact

3) Cultural and Heritage

- effects to historic property
- increased economic pressure

Mitigation

on historic properties

change to or loss of historic resources

change to or loss of archaeological resources

increased pressure on archaeological sites

change to or loss of aesthetically important sites

effects to aboriginal lifestyle

The Deh Cho Process IMA addresses the Capitol Planning process in Hay River. Planning will take place in consultation with the Kátłó'deèche First Nation and other affected Dehcho First Nations through the IMA.

other:

N/A

NOTES:

Noted impacts on the environment are normal procedures involved in the treatment of municipal sewage waste. Many of these concerns are being managed through the conditions of the existing licence and can continue to be managed.

- Pursuant to Schedule 4.1 of the **Northwest Territory Métis Nation** (NWTMN) Interim Measures Agreement, the MVLWB determined that written notice was given to the NWTMN and that a reasonable period of time was allowed for NWTMN to make representations with respect to the application.
- Pursuant to section 27, paragraphs (a) and (b) of the **Dehcho First Nations** (DCFN) Interim Measures Agreement, the MVLWB has determined that written notice was given to the DCFN, and that a reasonable period of time was allowed for DCFN to make representations with respect to the application.

Reasons For Decision

DECISION

The Board is satisfied that communities and First Nations affected by the Application have been notified and provided adequate time to provide comment on the Application as required by land claim and self government agreements, the MVRMA, policy directions relating to Interim Measures Agreements, and any other applicable legislation and agreements.

In their application, the Town indicated they were of the opinion the Application was exempt from screening because no new activities were being proposed compared to what was previously screened in 2001 and 2004. No comments were received indicating reviewers disagreed the application was exempt. Therefore, in accordance with Schedule 1, Part 1, section 2 of the *Exemption List Regulations*, the Board has confirmed the undertaking is exempt from preliminary screening. Consequently, no preliminary screening was conducted.