



Sahtu Land and Water Board Staff Information Report

Division: Waters Program	Report No. 3
Date Prepared: July 16, 2021	File: S18L3-003
Meeting Date: July 21, 2021	
Subject: Public review completed 2020 Annual Water Licence Report	

1. Purpose/Report Summary

The purpose of this Report is to present to the Sahtu Land and Water Board for information on the public review completed **2020 Annual Report for the Municipal Licence (S18L3-003) of the Town of Norman Wells**.

Although formal Board approval is not required under the Licence, the Board must be satisfied that the Licensee has met the requirements of the Licence.

2. Background

In general, Annual Reports for water licences (also permits) are expected to be submitted by March 31, every year, reporting about the project activities of the previous calendar year. The Town of Norman Wells (Licensee) is expected to submit Annual Reports by March 31, every year, as per the Licence (S18L3-003) Part B, Condition 21 and Schedule 1, Condition 1.

The annual water licence report of S18L3-003 was reviewed as given in the timetable below.

2.1 Public Review Timeline for the Annual Report

Licence	Report Received Date	Report Distributed (ORS)	Distribution List	Review Comments Due Date	Proponent Response Due Date	Public Review Outcome
S18L3-003	May 12_21	Jun 29_21	Tulita Dist. (SLWB)	Jul 9_21	Jul 15_21	Comments Received from GNWT-ENR

(Recorded in Review Comment Table: Attachment 3).

3. Discussion

3.1 Overview - S18L3-003– Municipal Water Licence of the Town of Norman Wells

The Licence S18L3-003 entitles the Town of Norman Wells (Licensee) to use Water to dispose of Waste for the purpose of a municipal undertaking at the Town of Norman Wells, Northwest Territories.

Activities under the licence:

1. **Direct water use** - water withdrawal from the Mackenzie River, treatment, storage and distribution for community use.
2. **Sewage disposal** - disposal of sewage generated by the community in the Sewage Lagoon at Seepage Lake.
3. **Solid waste disposal** - disposal of solid waste generated by the community at the Solid Waste Disposal Facility.

3.2 Summary and Review of 2020 Annual Water Licence Report (S18L3-003)

The licensee submitted the 2020 Annual Water Licence Report with three appendices including a) Spill Reports, b) SNP Site Map and c) Lab (Taiga Lab) reports. The 2020 Annual Water Licence Report (Attachment 1) was prepared using the Annual Water Licence Report Template (updated by SLWB Staff in 2019). The report meets the reporting requirements.

Emergency Decant in 2020 and Sampling Data

There was decanting at Seepage Lake (sewage lagoon) in 2020. There was an emergency decant from May 15- 22 due to a breach in the secondary cell of the lagoon that caused a portion of the back berm of the lagoon to be overtopped. The emergency decant was stopped once the berm was repaired. Seepage lake was also decanted between June 17th and August 28th. (Ref: Section 4 of the Report)

Surveillance Network Program (SNP) data: Suspended Solids from the decant exceeded maximum allowable concentrations on the testing done on August 4th, the Town of Norman Wells did not receive those test results from Taiga Laboratory until August 28th. (Ref: Section 6, Page 9 of the Report)

Board Staff notes on the 2020 emergency decant:

Board Staff and the Inspector (GNWT-ENR) were informed about the decant. The licensee must seek approval from the Inspector before proceeding with decanting discharges from wastewater treatment system to the receiving environment as per Licence, Part D, Condition 12. The Inspector gave the permission to decant on June 17, 2020¹.

¹ [SLWB Online Registry: S18L3-003 – Information on Emergency Decant – Approval from Inspector – Jun 17_20](#)

As per the WL, Annex A, Part B, the SNP location S07L3-002-(1) need to be sampled weekly during periods of decant. Sampling parameters: PH, temperature, Total Suspended Solids (TSS), CBOD, conductivity, Faecal Coliforms, Oil and Grease, Ammonia Nitrogen, Total Nitrogen, nitrate-nitrogen, nitrite-nitrogen, total organic carbon and total phosphorous. PH, Faecal Coliforms, Total Suspended Solids. Water sampling was done at SNP Station S07L3-002 weekly during periods of decant as per the water license SNP sampling requirements. (Ref: Section 6, Table 5 of the Report). Board Staff notes that the wastewater decant was managed properly and licence conditions have been met.

Modification Completed in 2020

There was a modification completed in November 2020 to the filter underdrains at the Water Treatment Plant. This was reported under section 5 of the report, as per Licence, Schedule 1, Condition 1 c.

Upcoming Expansion of Solid Waste Disposal Facility and Updates on Management Plans

Town will be applying for an expansion to the solid waste disposal facility (SWDF). This information was reported under section 13, "Other Information" under the 2020 Annual Report. Quoting section 13, "Town will be applying for an expansion to the solid waste disposal facility. Updated Operations and maintenance. Spill contingency plan, hazardous waste management plan, and closure and reclamation plan will be included."

Board Staff notes: Updated SWDF O and M Plan and will be submitted for Board approval in connection with the SWDF expansion. Other management plans would be submitted/updated to incorporate additional information related to SWDF expansion and implementation of the (upcoming) new SWDF By-law currently undergoing internal and external (public) reviews. (Information acquired through ongoing communications with the Staff of Town of Norman Wells and Board Staff's participation in the public hearing of the Town's draft SWDF By-Law).

3.3 Summary of Public Review of 2020 Annual Report (S18L3-003)

The Annual Report was distributed for public review received comments (Ref: Section 2.1) from two reviewers from the Government of Northwest Territories - Department of Environment and Natural Resources (GNWT-ENR). There were three comments: one regarding a missing spill record and two similar comments regarding water usage (recommendations to record the amount of water used for dust suppression). The Town of Norman Wells gave satisfactory and acceptable responses. Although the Town did report the spill occurred on January 30, 2020, they agreed to send the report again to have proper record of the spill on the GNWT-ENR's website. The Town agreed to keep records and report on water used for dust suppression in future.

4. Conclusion and Recommendation

It was found that the Licensee has met the requirements for the Annual Reports of the Licence S18L3-003.

Board staff recommend the Board to issue a Letter of Direction to the Licensee (Draft Letter of Direction attached – Attachment 4).

5. Attachments

5.1 2019 Annual Water Licence Report (**S18L3-003**) ([Hyperlink](#) only);

5.2 Appendices

5.2.1 Spill Report ([hyperlink](#) only)

5.2.2 SNP Site Map ([hyperlink](#) only)

5.2.3 Lab (Taiga Lab) reports ([hyperlink](#) only)

5.3 Review Comment Table and Attached ENR Letter - 2020 Annual Report (**S18L3-003**)

5.4 Draft Letter of Direction.

Respectfully submitted,



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