## **Reviewer Comments and Proponent Responses**

Project: Behdzi Ahda First Nations Band Board: Sahtu Land and Water Board Organization: Behdzi Ahda First Nation Band

No.	Topic	<b>Reviewer Comment</b>	<b>Reviewer Recommendation</b>	<b>Proponent Response</b>	
Fisher	sheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) - Ms. Anna-Maija LaFlamme				
1	Behdzi Ahd a First Natio ns Band: M unicipal Wat er Licence C olville Lake, NT. Cover L etter, Table of contents, Appliction.	The project documents reports si gnificant water intake from the water treatment plant. The water intake rate is above DFO's Interim code of practice: end-of-pipe fish protection screens. DFO suggests to the proponent to conside rapplying a fish protective screen to the intake to avoid the entrapment or impingement of fish.	Based on the information that w as submitted, DFO recommends the proponent to apply a appropriately sized fish screen to the end of the intake pipe in accordance with DFO Interim code of practice: End-of-pipe fish protection screens for small water intakes in freshwater (dfo-mpo.gc.ca) In order to comply with the Fisheries Act, it is recommended that the Proponent follow DFO's protective measures for fish and fish habitat and standard codes of practice which can be found on DFO's we bsite (https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/measures-mesures-eng.html and https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/practice-practique-eng.html).	A pump intake end-of-pipe fish s creen was included in the origina I design and installed for the raw water pump at the time of origin al construction 2006-2007. It is c urrently in place. Attachment 1 p rovides details (Designed by Dill on Consulting for GNWT Public W orks and Services).	

No.	Topic	Reviewer Comment	<b>Reviewer Recommendation</b>	<b>Proponent Response</b>
GNWT		t and Climate Change - Environme	ntal Regulatory Analyst	
1	GNWT-ECC Cover Lette r	Please see attached.	N/A	Cover letter acknowledged.
2	Population	The current community populati on listed on page 1 of the Questi onnaire is 169 people. This num ber is also used as the current p opulation in Section 7 of the Soli d Waste Disposal Facilities (SWD F) Operation and Maintenance Pl an (OMP). Based on the Northwe st Territories Bureau of Statistics link provided in both documents, the projected population for 202 5 is 153 people (using the year 2 025 because the current year is not provided and 2025 is the clo sest year). It is unclear whether Behdzi Ahda First Nation (BAFN) has information from an alternati ve source to suggest that the current population is 169 people. Ad ditionally, the Questionnaire indi cates that the projected populati on in 2025 will be 178 people. It is noted that this may be a typo, as a population of 178 is project ed for the year 2035, not 2025.	The Government of the Northwe st Territories (GNWT) Departmen t of Environment and Climate Ch ange (ECC) recommends that BA FN provide rationale for the state ment that the current population is 169 people, and that the proje cted population for 2025 is 178 people.	The existing population of 169 fo r 2023 was provided by BAFN Ad ministration. The projection num ber for Year 5+ (Questionnaire) i s fewer than current; therefore, 1 78 was chosen as the closest rea sonable projection greater than current. You are correct, the projected population of 178 is for 203 5 and the Questionnaire will be corrected. Section 7.0 SWDF O&M template calls for the projected population 10 years from now which correlates to the 178 in 2035 (closest to 10 years); no changes are needed.
3	Landfill Well s	The "Facility Condition" section of the Questionnaire indicates that the Surveillance Network Program wells at the landfill may need repair. However, there are no mentions in the "Upgrades" section or elsewhere in the Question naire of plans to repair the wells at the landfill.	GNWT-ECC recommends that BA FN clarify whether there are plan s to repair the wells at the landfil I.	It is BAFN's understanding that the responsibility for the SWDF Surveillance Network Program wells resides with GNWT-ECC Contaminants Division.

4	Solid Waste Disposal Fa cilities Visits	Section 4 of the SWDF OMP asks how often staff visit the SWDF if there is no designated site opera tor. GNWT-ECC notes that this has been left blank.	GNWT-ECC recommends that BA FN clarify whether staff visit the SWDF and how often these visits occur.	BAFN Staff visit the Solid Waste Disposal Facility and Sewage Dis posal Facility biweekly (every 2 weeks).
5	Solid Waste Quantities	While annual report requirement s will be finalized in the water licence, Section 15 of the SWDF O MP indicates that a summary of monthly and annual quantities of solid waste should be included in the annual report. The questions in Section 15 regarding how and where quantities of solid waste a re recorded have been left blank. It is important that there is a me thod to track solid waste quantities. GNWT-ECC notes that a num ber of small communities use a formula provided by GNWT Municipal and Community Affairs (MAC A) to estimate the quantity of solid waste based on the population.	GNWT-ECC recommends that BA FN determine a feasible method to track monthly and annual qua ntities of solid waste and that th ese quantities be reported in the annual report.	We appreciate the recommendat ion and will use the MACA estima tion formula referenced.
6	Sewage Dis posal Faciliti es – Propos ed Wells	Section 14 of the Sewage Dispos al Facilities (SDF) OMP outlines t hree proposed wells for the Surv eillance Monitoring Program. GN WT-ECC notes that it is unclear h ow the locations for these propo sed wells were selected.	GNWT-ECC recommends that BA FN provide rationale for the proposed locations of the SDF wells.	A half-circle of 3 wells were sited in the area downgradient of the discharge area, between the sou thern edge of the natural pond a nd the roadway. The intention was to intersect the expected flow direction.
7	Training	Section 2.13 of the Spill Conting ency Plan (SCP) includes a table to indicate which types of trainin g are required for those working at each facility. GNWT-ECC notes that this table is not filled out.	GNWT-ECC recommends that BA FN complete the training table in Section 2.13 of the SCP.	All 6 training items in Section 2.1 3 of the BAFN SCP will be include d for WTP, SDF and SWDF planning, training, and documentation. The Bulk Fuel Storage Facility is not included in the BAFN scope because that Facility is the responsibility of GNWT-Infrastructure. It is expected that GNWT-Infrastructure would have a SCP in place and will include some community members, as first responders, in training.
8	Draft Licenc e	The Item Description on the Onli ne Review System indicates that a draft licence was to be posted to the review by December 14th, 2023. GNWT-ECC notes that a draft licence was not posted to the review.	GNWT-ECC recommends that a d raft licence be circulated for revi ew once BAFN has had an opport unity to respond to comments o n this review of the application materials.	This comment is directed to the SLWB.

No.	Topic	<b>Reviewer Comment</b>	<b>Reviewer Recommendation</b>	<b>Proponent Response</b>
Enviro	vironment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) - Mrs. Stephinie Mallon			
1	ECCC Cover Letter	ECCC Cover Letter	N/A	Cover letter acknowledged.
2	Topic: Speci es at Risk  References: -Behdzi Ahd a First Natio n, Municipal Water Licen ce Applicati on, Colville Lake -Operation and Mainte nance Plan Templates f or Municipal Water Licen ces: Solid W aste Dispos al Facility, C olville Lake	Species at risk are assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) or added to Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act (SARA) on a regular basis. It is important for Proponents to ensure they are aware of what species are present in the project area and take appropriate actions to ensure compliance with the SARA.  The killing, harming or harassing of listed species as well as the damage and destruction of their residences is prohibited under SARA. In the territories, the prohibitions apply automatically to:  Threatened, Endangered and Extirpated species listed on Schedule 1 of SARA on lands under the	As species are assessed and list ed on a regular basis, ECCC recommends the Proponent: a) Consult the Species at Risk registry to obtain the most current information for their operations. b) Consult the Government of the Northwest Territories to identify appropriate mitigation and/or monitoring measures to avoid and lessen project effects to species under their management responsibility. For more information on Species at Risk in the Northwest Territories, please refer to the booklet 'Species at Risk in the Northwest Territories (2020 edition).'	All parts of the WL Application w ere complete. Daily activities util ize existing roads and facilities a nd are unlikely to kill, harm, or h arass any animals including Species at Risk. Construction of the n ew WTP will contemplate the possibility of SAR interactions and in clude plans to lessen or mitigate the effects of construction.

		authority of the federal Minister of Environment.  • Migratory Birds (as defined un der the Migratory Birds Conventi on Act [MBCA]) everywhere they are found.  These prohibitions can apply els ewhere if there is an order put in place.  The destruction of critical habita t of species listed under Schedul e 1 of SARA is prohibited on all la nds identified within the critical habitat protection order for the s pecies.		
3	Topic: Speci es at Risk - Missing Ite ms Referen ces: -Behdzi Ahda First N ation, Munic ipal Water L icence Appli cation, Colv ille Lake -Operation and Mainte nance Plan Templates f or Municipal Water Licen ces: Solid W aste Dispos al Facility, C olville Lake	ecies should be assessed similarly to those listed under SARA.  The Proponent has not identified any species at risk that are likely to be present in the Project area, including Boreal Caribou, for which the Project falls within their critical habitat. The Government of the Northwest Territories, in general, hold the best available information and technical knowledge	ECCC recommends the Proponen t:  a) Identify adverse effects of the Project on the species at risk like ly to be affected and their critica I habitat; b) Ensure that measures are tak en to avoid or lessen those adve rse effects and monitor them to inform adaptive management.  If the Proponent encounters species at risk, the primary mitigation measure should be avoidance. ECCC recommends: c) Mitigation and monitoring measures be consistent with applicable species at risk Recovery Strategies and Action Plans or Management Plans. d) At a minimum, monitoring should include recording timing and location of observed species at risk, their behavior when encountered, and actions taken by the Proponent to avoid disturbance to the species, its habitat, and/or its residence. e) The Proponent submit monitoring reports to the appropriate regulators and organizations with management responsibility for that species.	Facility areas and all season road s have already been constructe d; activities of every day living w ill not create new disturbance or distruption. Activities outside the community are not expected dur ing the permit period.
4	Topic: Proje ct Activities References: -Behdzi Ahd a First Natio n, Municipal Water Licen ce Applicati on, Colville	The Migratory Birds Regulations (MBR) prohibit the disturbance or destruction of migratory birds and their nests or eggs. The project occurs during the nesting seas on for migratory birds which extends from early May to late August for this region. Migratory birds, their nests and their eggs can	ECCC recommends the Proponen t carry out all phases of the proje ct in a manner that reduces risk to migratory birds and to avoid h arming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests and egg s.	WTP, SWDF, SDF are existing fea tures with no new disturbance an ticipated for the majority of the p ermit period. Planning and construction of the new Water Treatment Plant within the community on previously disturbed land, will require Contractors, in consultation

	Lake -Opera tion and Ma intenance Pl an Template s for Munici pal Water Li cences: Soli d Waste Dis posal Facilit y, Colville L ake	disturbed or destroyed because of many activities including, but not limited to, clearing of trees a nd other vegetation, draining or flooding land, or using fishing ge ar. Harming of individual birds, n ests or eggs, can have long-term consequences for migratory bird populations in Canada, especiall y through the cumulative effects of many different incidences.	Proponents should not conduct p otentially destructive or disrupti ve activities at key locations or d uring key periods to avoid negati ve impacts to migratory birds. In this regard, the Proponent shoul d take into account ECCC's Guid elines to Avoid Harm to Migrator y Birds and visit Fact Sheet Nest Protection Under the Migratory B irds Regulations, 2022 and Frequently Asked Question, Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022 for more information on the amended Migratory Bird Regulations and updates to nest protections.	with BAFN, to respond to comme nt requirements.
5	Topic: Proje ct Activities (Clearing) R eferences: -Behdzi Ahd a First Natio n, Municipal Water Licen ce Applicati on, Colville Lake -Opera tion and Ma intenance Pl an Template s for Munici pal Water Li cences: Soli d Waste Dis posal Facilit y, Colville L ake	The Proponent indicates that hab itat alteration and/or disturbance may be required during the gene ral nesting period as part of project activities.  The Project is located in Nesting Zone B8. In this area, migratory birds may be found nesting from early May to late August.  During this period, clearing or br ushing of vegetation or activities that may disturb or alter nesting habitat may increase the risk of destruction of the nests and egg s of migratory birds. It is important to note that nesting periods may vary from year to year due to climatic conditions and some species may nest outside the dates provided if conditions are favour able.  If there are occupied migratory bird nests where work is planned, activities that could disturb or destroy nests should be avoided, a dapted, rescheduled or relocate d. The best way to avoid disturbing or destroying active nests is to avoid conducting harmful activities during the breeding season.  Determining the presence of nesting migratory birds may help reduce risks, but active nest searches are not recommended as the ability to detect nests is very low while the risk of disturbing and/or damaging active nests is high. As detailed in ECCC's Guidelines to Avoid Harm to Migratory Birds, nest surveys to determine nest occupancy may only be appropriate when all these conditions a remet:  Conducted by skilled and experienced observers;  Using appropriate methodolog y;  only a few nesting spots or a small community of migratory birds is expected; and  The activities will take place in simple habitats.  Proponents are reminded that migratory bird species may nest on the ground, in ground cavities, in grasses, shrubs, cliffs, trees, tree cavities are often cryptic or ca mouflaged, making them difficult to locate.  The Project falls within the breed	ECCC recommends the Proponen t avoid habitat disturbance durin g the general nesting period, whi ch extends from early May to lat e August for this region. The Pro ponent must consider options su ch as avoiding, adapting, resche duling or relocating activities. If a nest containing a migratory bir d or egg is discovered/disturbed, the Proponent must: a) Halt all di sruptive activities in the nesting area until nesting is complete an d the young have fledged; and b) Establish a protective buffer z one around the nests. The buffer zone must be determined by a s etback distance appropriate for t he species, the intensity of the d isturbance, and the surrounding habitat until the young have nat urally and permanently left the v icinity of the nest. Proponents ar e encouraged to follow the guidance on ECCC's Guidelines to Avoid Harm to Migratory Birds. For further questions or technical infor mation, please contact ECCC (cw snorth-scfnord@ec.gc.ca).	Clearing or active construction is not anticipated for the majority of the permit period. Please see C omment 4 for a description of construction related activities.  Due to the limited weather wind ow for the new Water Treatment Plant construction and commissioning, spring and summer activities may take place during the nesting period. Contractors, in consultation with BAFN, will provide detailed plans for the identification and protection of ground nests.
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	Swallow Habitat References: -Behdzi Ahda First Nation, Municipal Water Licence Application, Colville Lake -Operation and Maintenance Plan Templates for Municipal Water Licences: Solid Waste Disposal Facility, Colville Lake	ing range of the Bank Swallow a nd may affect important habitat features for the species. The Bank Swallow, listed as Threatened under SARA, is a colonial species that nests in burrows dug into ne ar vertical faces of exposed sand or soil. They also nest in aggrega te pits, construction and/or mine sites on stockpiles of quarry mat erials, overburden, and exposed soil banks. The Bank Swallow ex hibits high nest site fidelity and will reuse nesting sites and burro ws. The residence description for the Bank Swallow is available on the SARA registry here: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/residence-descriptions/bank-swallow.html. Exca vation, construction activities and application of erosion control measures in these areas during the nesting period can inadvertently kill or disturb Bank Swallows, destroy their residence or critical habitat, and may also affect othe r migratory bird species.	t: a) Take precautions to avoid di sturbance to nesting Bank Swall ows; b) Ensure staff and contract ors are made aware of potential presence and conservation statu s of the Bank Swallow; and c) Take particular care in selecting er osion prevention and control me asures and implement those me asures prior to the nesting season. Proponents are encouraged to consult the linked pamphlet and contact ECCC (cwsnorth-scfnord @ec.gc.ca) for further advice.	tures without disturbance. Brown Bank Swallows have not been ob served in the current facilities; wild birds keep their distance from the community. They have been observed to nest on mossy areas on the islands within Colville Lake several kilometres away. Community members respect those nests and do not disturb them.
7	Topic: Demo lition and R epairs Refer ences: -Beh dzi Ahda Fir st Nation, M unicipal Wat er Licence A pplication, Colville Lak e -Operatio n and Maint enance Plan Templates f or Municipal Water Licen ces: Solid W aste Dispos al Facility, C olville Lake	Project activities include demoliti on work on human made structu res (which may include bridges, culverts and buildings).  Migratory birds, including Barn a nd Cliff Swallow may be found n esting on or in human made structures including buildings, under bridges and in culverts.  Activities such as cleaning, application and removal of protective coatings (e.g. paints), construction, demolition, or reclamation pose a risk to nesting birds, their nests and eggs.	t avoid demolition, maintenance or other work on existing infrastr ucture where migratory birds may be found nesting during the nesting period. If maintenance or demolition activities must take place during the nesting period, the Proponent should: a) Temporarily install netting and/or other appropriate deterrence systems prior to the arrival of birds in the spring to prevent nesting on man-made infrastructure; or b) Conduct nest surveys of the structures us ing appropriate methodology, and skilled and experienced observers. Proponents are encouraged to contact ECCC (cwsnorth-scfnord@ec.gc.ca) for further advice.	Migratory birds are not observed in the current facilities; wild birds keep their distance from the community. They do not nest in the community. The only future demolition work is expected at the exiting WTP which will be replaced with a new facility. The existing footprint is expected to be the same, as the raw water intake pumphouse (drawing water from Colvil le Lake) will be kept and reused. Demolition activities will require Contractors, in consultation with BAFN, to respond to comment requirements in their plans and im plementation.
8	Topic: Conta mination of Water Bodie s Reference s: -Behdzi A hda First Na tion, Munici pal Water Li cence Appli cation, Colv ille Lake -O peration an d Maintena nce Plan Te mplates for Municipal Water Licence s: Solid Was te Disposal Facility, Col ville Lake	Fuel and/or other hazardous mat erials (such as sodium hypochlor ite) may be stored, handled or tr ansported near a water body that may be used by birds.  ECCC advises the Proponent that section 5.1 of the Migratory Birds Convention Act prohibits persons from depositing substances harmful to migratory birds in waters or areas frequented by migratory birds or in a place from which the substance may enter such waters or such an area.	ECCC recommends the Proponen t ensure their employees and contractors are made aware of plans and commitments related to storing, handling and transporting of petroleum products and other hazardous substances (such as sodium hypochlorite) and take all necessary precautions to prevent spills.	Agreed, recommendations will be included in operating procedures, Spill Contingency Plan and in training.
9	Topic: Spills References: -Operation and Mainte nance Plan Templates f or Municipal Water Licen	Section 2.9 of the Spill Continge ncy Plan indicates that up to 380 L (20 pails) of sodium hypochlori te will be stored within the water treatment plant (WTP) storage a nd treatment rooms. The Propon ent did not provide any detail in the Spill Contingency Plan nor in	ECCC recommends that the Proponent add additional details with in the Spill Contingency Plan and the Water Treatment Plant Operation and Maintenance Plan regarding:  a) Measures that are / will be in place to minimize the possibility	Agreed. Recommendations will be added to the SCP and the curre nt operating procedures for proper storage and containment for sodium hypochlorite. Safe transfer of sodium hypochlorite will be included in the SCP and current water treatment procedures. The

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	10	Topic: Vehicl e Inspection and Mainte nance Refer ences: -Ope ration and Maintenanc e Plan Temp lates for Mu nicipal Wate r Licences: Spill Contin gency Plan, Colville Lak e	The community relies on vehicle s for movement of chlorinated w ater, sewage, and fuel. As such, accidents and malfunctions relat ed to these trucks could result in leaks of fuel and oil, as well as s pills of the transported materials (these are listed within the worst-case scenarios for fuel and sew age within Section 2.11). Accide nts and malfunctions related bot h to the vehicle drivetrain (e.g., t ires, brakes, engine, etc.) and the cargo tank (e.g., leaks) could r esult in leaks or spills. An inspect ion and maintenance plan for community-owned vehicles involved in the transportation of chlorin ated water, sewage, and fuel, would help minimize the risk of leak s or spills due to vehicle acciden ts and malfunctions.	ECCC recommends that the Proponent develop an inspection and maintenance plan for community-owned vehicles that are used for carrying chlorinated water, sew age, and fuel. The inspection and maintenance plan should include both the drivetrain of the vehicle, as well as the storage tank used to transport the vehicle's cargo.	Community-owned vehicles are inspected and maintained by the Community Garage Foreman. This includes preventative or scheduled maintenance, repairs, oil changes and transmission inspection and maintenance. The Community Garage has proper collection and storage of spent products with secondary containment. Disinfected water trucked to homes contains a very small amount of sodium hypochlorite recommended by GNWT - Municipal and Community Affairs for in-home system piping and tank disinfection. The concentration is intended for human consumption. Walk-around inspections for both Water trucks and Sewage transport trucks are part of loading and delivery a ctivities with action where repair is needed.
	11	Topic: Solid Waste Mana gement Ref erences: -O peration and Maintenance Plan Templates for Municipal Water Licences: Solid Waste Disposal Facility, Colville Lake -Solid Waste Management for Northern and Remote Communities	ECCC developed the Solid Waste Management for Northern and R emote Communities, Planning an d Technical Guidance Document (available at: http://www.ec.gc.ca/gdd-mw/default.asp?lang=En&n=97182135-1) to support solid waste management in northern and remote communities. The community is encouraged to consult this document.	ECCC recommends that the Proponent consult the ECCC planning and technical guidance document, Solid Waste Management for Northern and Remote Communities, to support responsible solid waste management and inform the Solid Waste Disposal Facility Operation and Maintenance Plan.  A summary and a link to the full document are available on Environment and Climate Change Canada's website at the previously-stated link.	Understood. Thank you for the re ference document citation.
	12	Topic: Solid Waste Disp osal Facility References: -Operation and Mainte nance Plan Templates f or Municipal Water Licen ces: Solid Waste Dispos al Facility, Colville Lake	It is important to minimize site w ater (i.e., contact water) at the S olid Waste Disposal Facility (SWD F), as contact water can result in leaching and offsite transport of contaminants. However, based on Section 14 (Surface Water Management) of the Operation and Maintenance Plan, it appears that the SWDF does not incorporate surface water management feat ures.	ECCC recommends diverting pre cipitation from the Solid Waste D isposal Facility in order to reduce offsite transport of contaminant s.	Direct observation of surface pre cipitation flow path is from the ro ad area (high point) split to the n orth and south. The area to the n orth is a natural low. The souther n precipitation path is around the landfill area. BAFN will consider t his comment in future construction or closure activities.
	13	Topic: Sewa ge Effluent Monitoring References: -Operation and Mainte nance Plan Templates f	Based on the Sewage Disposal F acilities Operation and Maintena nce Plan, it appears that the effl uent quality of the sewage treat ment system is not being monito red. It is important to monitor e ffluent quality to ensure discharg e criteria are met and to track tr	ECCC recommends the Proponen t:  a) Monitor sewage effluent qualit y seasonally/periodically and compare monitoring results to disc harge criteria, lagoon performan	The size of the sewage lagoon greatly exceeds the sewage output of this small community.  There have not been any sewage lagoon effluent discharges or discharge periods. Effluent discharge is not expected due to very low

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eatment performance of the syst em. It is also important to record the dates when effluent is discharged from the system. Although effluent discharge is described a s continuous, it is noted that the lagoon provides more capacity than is currently required and appears to discharge infrequently. The actual discharge periods should be recorded to support compliance monitoring.

ce design criteria, and previous monitoring results;

b) Use effluent quality monitorin g results and data comparisons t o (1) verify that effluent quality i s appropriate for discharge to the receiving environment, (2) track sewage treatment performance over time, and (3) inform sewage treatment and effluent management decisions; and

c) Record start and end dates of effluent discharge periods.

sewage volumes produced relati ve to the lagoon size. The sewag e volume delivered covers a very small portion of the lagoon base; there is surface evaporation. Ple ase see SDF OMP PDF page 16 of 23, Additional Information, Quest ion 10. for a description of the ve ry low permeability barrier (geos ynthetic liner). Occasionally with snowmelt, the volume of sewage plus melt water can cover some what larger portions the base; ho wever, not the entire base. There is no liquid effluent or effluent sl urry to pump or gravity discharg

A Surveillance Monitoring Progra m has been proposed downgradi ent of the wetland area.