

**REASONS FOR DECISION
WATER USE LICENCE AG96-001 NIELSEN FARMS
YUKON RIVER -KILOMETRE 13 MAYO ROAD.**

The Yukon Territory Water Board ("the Board") has concluded deliberations pertaining to water use application AG96-001, an application for a type B water use licence for an agricultural undertaking.


The applicant, Nielsen Farms, applied for a licence for irrigation of approximately 185 hectares of Hay and Oats crops. The proposed water source is the Yukon River. The applicant has requested a 25 year licence to withdraw 2618 m³ of water per day.

Public notice of this application was provided in accordance with the requirements of the Yukon Waters Act ("the Act"). In response, the Board received interventions from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada ("DIAND"), Fisheries and Oceans Canada ("DFO"), Ta'an Kwach'an Council, and Government of the Yukon. The Board did not receive a request for a public hearing and the applicant did not respond to the interventions.

Both DFO and YTG recommended that all water withdrawals be screened to exclude fish, and this recommendation was included in the licence. DIAND recommended that all land use permits be in place prior to the issuance of the water licence, and this was included in the licence. Ta'an Kwach'an Council had no concerns.

Prior to making licensing decisions, the Board undertook an environmental assessment of this project, pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act ("CEAA"). The Board is satisfied that the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

Approved:



Ron Johnson, Chairperson
Yukon Territory Water Board

April 23, 1997