

2007 AUG -2 AM 8:55

August 2, 2007

APPL. NO. MN07-071

Judi White  
Yukon Water Board  
Suite 106, 419 Range Road  
Whitehorse, YT  
Y1A 3V1

**Re: Water Use Licence Application MN07-071**

Dear Mrs. White,

The purpose of this letter is to provide clarification on the issue of treated sewage sludge storage at the new long-term sewage disposal facility, to be owned and operated by Selkirk First Nation. As per the email sent to you by SFN consulting engineer Victor Menkal, it seems that there has been some confusion over the purpose of the facility and not everyone received the design brief that should have accompanied the formal drawings and specs.

To clarify, the facility is not a sewage lagoon. It is a septic sludge treatment facility designed to treat sludge pumped from septic tanks as required for routine maintenance. The facility has also been designed to handle raw sewage in the event of failure of septic fields (hence the third large cell to handle excess liquid if required) but the primary design consideration is dewatering and treatment of sludge from septic tanks in the community.

The requirement for on site containment and treatment of sludge is based on a sewage lagoon facility where the primary cells are completely contained and maintain a constant level of water. During normal use of this type of system, the sludge which accumulates in the primary cell needs to be excavated and then treated in a separate cell.

In the system designed for Pelly Crossing, the cells are in fact contained treatment cells for sludge which is generated from septic tanks, for example, the septic systems are equivalent to the primary cells of a conventional sewage lagoon.

Thus, the criteria from the YESSA decision document that sludge be contained and treated on site is met as this is the purpose of the two cells.

To summarize from the design brief the operation of the system is as follows:

- The primary form of treatment for sewage in Pelly Crossing is individual septic fields
- Solids which settle in the septic tanks undergo anaerobic decomposition
- The remaining sludge is pumped out every two years and deposited in the sludge treatment pit at the new lagoon
- Water is separated from the sludge in the pit by ex-filtration and evaporation
- Both anaerobic and aerobic processes continue to reduce organic content of the sludge
- After 5 to 10 years or when the sludge reaches the maximum operating depth in the cell, discharge is moved to cell #2
- The sludge in cell #1 is left to thoroughly dewater
- Some organic soil is mixed with the sludge to start composting
- After two summer seasons, the sludge should have been undergone composting to a level where the remaining material is inert and can be used for reclamation, road shoulder dressing etc
- Before use the material should be tested for pathogens, heavy metals etc to ensure it is safe for the proposed use.

I hope the information contained in this letter provides clarification on the issue and this water use licence application can begin processing.

Sincerely,

  
Jillian Chown  
JC Environmental Consulting

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EXHIBIT 1.6