

## **YUKON TERRITORY WATER BOARD**

### **REASONS FOR DECISION**

#### **RE91001 - TAKHINI HOT SPRINGS**

The Takhini Hot Springs have been used for recreational swimming for several decades. The applicant is renewing a licence for water use which consists of diverting all the water from the natural hot springs pool to a year round outdoor public swimming pool. Notice of application was published in accordance with section 20 of the **Northern Inland Waters Act**. When no interventions were received by the intent date, the public hearing was cancelled.

The Yukon Territory Water Board reviewed the application, the EARP level 1 screening report and letters of comment from Indian and Northern Affairs Water Resources Division (DIAND), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and Environmental Canada (EPS). None of these agencies objected to the renewal of the licence.

Environment Canada noted that the parameters of the concerns addressed in the old licence were generally related to public health. The EARP screening report recommends in 9.5 that records be kept in accordance with section 12 of the Public Pool Regulations under the Public Health Act (Government of Yukon legislation). The Yukon Territory Water Board strongly recommends to the Licensee that he comply with the above noted act and would ask the Licensee to note Part A section 10 "Other Laws" in the new licence RE91-001.

The applicant requested that the monitoring program in the old licence be eliminated from the new licence because it was thought it was a duplication of the testing program undertaken by the public health officer and the sampling done by Water Resources Division. Water Resources in their letter of comment state that this is not the case as the applicants monitoring provides ongoing protection for the public because of the frequency which allows for timely correction of any negative increase in the waste water effluent. The agencies only do a spot check from time to time and cannot provide the necessary on-going assurance to the public.


In recommendations 9.2 and 9.3 of the EARP screening report, reference is made to the cold water well. In fact, the cold water well is to be used for "domestic" purposes only in that this cold water will supply the restaurant and the change rooms. The Board has never recommended a licence for these purposes as per section 5 (a) of the act.

The EARP screening report also recommended that the monitoring program remain the same as the old licence. Again in reference to the comments of Environment Canada, the old licence monitoring

parameters were generally related to public health. In turn, EPS offered a specific monitoring program which related to the water inflow to and outflow from the swimming pool. The Board has incorporated these recommendations into the new licence.

The EARP screening report recommendations regarding water use structures have been included in the licence.

Fisheries and Oceans stated in their comment letter that any specific concerns they may have were addressed in the EARP screening report and did not submit any additional recommendations.



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Grant Livingston, Chairman