



**Inuvialuit Water Board  
Annual Report  
April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021**

**1.0 Overview**

The mandate of the Inuvialuit Water Board (IWB) is described in the *Waters Act* (s. 24) as being: *“To provide for the conservation, development and utilization of waters in a manner that will provide the optimum benefit for all Canadians in general and, in particular, for the residents of the portion of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region [ISR] located in the Northwest Territories for which the Board is authorized to issue licences.”*

While the IWB operates within the authority and direction of the *Waters Act* and *Waters Regulations*, its activities are also subject to the requirements of the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* (IFA). The IWB may not issue a water licence unless the provisions of the IFA environmental impact screening and review process have been complied with. IWB members consider the results of this assessment process when reviewing and determining whether a water license should be issued and, if so, the terms and conditions of the license.

Once a water license is issued, the enforcement of the terms and conditions of the licence is the responsibility of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR).

**2.0 IWB Board Membership and Operations**

The IWB is composed of a Board, made up of five members, including a Chairperson, and an administrative structure established to support the IWB's mandated activities. The GNWT Minister of ENR appoints board members. Two members of the Board are appointed based upon the nomination of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC), and one member of the Board is appointed on the nomination of the federal Minister. All members of the Board hold office for a term of three years.

The Chairperson of the Board serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the IWB.

As of March 31, 2021, the members of the IWB were:

- Mr. Richard Binder, Interim Chairperson
- Mr. Mark Cleveland, member
- Mrs. Elizabeth Arey, member
- Mr. Herbert Felix, member

Outgoing members of the IWB were:

- Mr. Louis Covello – term ended June 26, 2020
- Mr. Roger Connelly – term ended October 17, 2020

During the year the Board met seven (7) times as follows:

Meeting 449	April 28, 2020	Teleconference
Meeting 450	June 8, 2020	Teleconference
Meeting 451	June 26, 2020	Teleconference
Meeting 452	September 8 – 10, 2020	Inuvik
Meeting 453	October 15, 2020	Teleconference
Meeting 454	January 15, 2021	Teleconference
Meeting 455	March 24, 2021	Teleconference

### **3.0 IWB Operations**

Based in Inuvik, NT, the IWB administrative personnel are members of the GNWT Public Service. The staff members are:

- Mardy Semmler – Executive Director
- Freda Wilson – Office Administrator
- Bijaya Adhikari, PhD – Science and Regulatory Coordinator
- Vacant – IWB Regulatory Officer

The IWB operates based upon a fiscal year that matches that of the GNWT – April 1 through March 31 of the following calendar year. Core funding for IWB activities is provided through a contribution agreement between the GNWT (ENR) and the IWB. In addition, in any particular year, the IWB may also receive financial support from various organizations, governments or government departments and/or agencies for specific projects or activities. During 2020 - 2021 the IWB received \$924,000 under the contribution agreement with ENR. In addition, in-kind contribution for office facilities with a value of \$61,693 was provided by GNWT.

Financial details related to IWB activities during the past year are outlined in the IWB's 2020 - 2021 audited financial statements. The IWB's external auditor for the fiscal year was Crowe MacKay LLP, chartered accountants, located in Yellowknife, NT. The financial statements are enclosed with this report.

In support of its mandate, the IWB has established standardized rules and procedures for the licensing process. These include documentation to guide administrative licensing matters as well as specific rules to guide the conduct of water licence application reviews and assessments. This information is publicly available through the IWB website ([www.inuvwb.ca](http://www.inuvwb.ca)).

### **4.0 IWB Water Licensing Activities 2020 – 2021**

#### **Water Licensing**

The IWB issues Type A and Type B Water Licences. A determination of the type of licence to be issued is largely dependent upon the volume of water used and the types of waste disposed of during a licensed activity.

In general terms:

- Type A Water Licences – are issued for larger scale industrial and commercial developments such as the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway.

- Type B Water Licences – are issued for municipalities’ water/waste services and smaller scale activities including most environmental clean-up projects.

As of March 31, 2021, there were fourteen (14) active water licences and twenty-three (23) expired water licences. The categories of active licences include:

- Municipal: 5
- Industrial: 6
- Miscellaneous: 3

#### ***Type A or B Water Licences Issued (New)***

- There were no new licences issued during this fiscal year.

#### ***Type A or B Water Licences Issued (Renewed):***

- Type B Licence N7L3-1619, was renewed and issued to the Hamlet of Paulatuk on October 15, 2020. This licence renewed a prior licence and authorized the use of water and the deposit of waste for municipal services in the community. The terms and conditions of the license allow for the use of the existing water treatment plant and the solid and sewage waste disposal facilities operated by the Hamlet for a five-year period.

Prior to licence renewal the IWB Board and senior staff members visited the community of Paulatuk, toured the fresh-water intake and treatment plant, solid and sewage waste disposal facilities and met with the hamlet Mayor and councillors as well as the hamlet’s operations staff to discuss a broad range of issues related to the provision of water and waste services in their community. Although invited to accompany the Board on the community tour, the ENR Water Resources Officer was not available to participate.

- Type B Licence N7L1-1836 was renewed and issued to Imperial Oil Resources on June 26, 2020 for the remediation of the BAR-C / Tununuk Point Remediation Project. The renewal application was submitted on April 17, 2020 and the licence was renewed with an expiry date of June 30, 2040.

#### ***Type A or B Water Licence Assignment, Cancellation or Amendment***

- The IWB did not assign, cancel, or amend any water licences during this reporting period.

#### ***Type A or B Water Licences Expiring During the Year***

- No non-renewed Type A or B Water Licences expired during the fiscal year.

### **Licence Management Activities**

In addition to processing licence applications, the IWB is charged with reviewing and approving management plans associated with licences, as well as reviewing water licence inspection reports and annual reports from licence holders. During the year the following activities related to this responsibility occurred.

#### ***Management Plan approvals***

- N7L3-1619 – Hamlet of Paulatuk – Municipal Water Licence
  - Solid Waste Disposal Facilities Operation and Maintenance Plan

- Sewage Waste Disposal Facilities Operation and Maintenance Plan
- Spill Contingency Plan
- Hazardous Waste Management Plan
- Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan
- N7L3-1531 – Hamlet of Sachs Harbour – Municipal Water Licence
  - Solid Waste Disposal Facilities Operation and Maintenance Plan
  - Sewage Waste Disposal Facilities Operation and Maintenance Plan
  - Hazardous Waste Management Plan
  - Spill Contingency Plan
- N7L8-1831 – Imperial Oil Resources – BAR-C / Tununuk Point, NWT
  - Spill Contingency Plan
  - Monitoring Plan
  - Erosion, Sediment and Drainage Control Plan
- N5L1-1843 – GNWT Infrastructure – Gunghi Creek Culvert Replacement Project
  - Environmental Management Plan
  - Surveillance Network Program Quality Assurance / Quality Control Plan
  - Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
  - Wildlife Management Plan
  - Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan (Fisheries Management Plan)
- N5L8-1841 – Imperial Oil Environmental and Property Solutions – Tuk Base, NWT
  - Remedial Action Plan
  - Waste Management Plan
  - Spill Contingency Plan
  - Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
  - Permafrost Monitoring Plan
  - Reclamation, Closure and Monitoring Plan
  - Emergency Preparedness and Monitoring Plan

***Annual and Sump Monitoring Reports Reviewed***

- N3L3-0570 – Hamlet of Aklavik – 2019 Annual Report
- N5L3-0714 – Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk – SNP Lab Results for Solid Waste Site and Sewage Lagoon Report
- N5L3-0714 – Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk – 2020 Annual Report
- N7L3-1525 – Hamlet of Ulukhaktok – 2020 Annual Report
- N7L3-1531 – Hamlet of Sachs Harbour – 2019 Annual Report
- N7L3-1619 – Hamlet of Paulatuk – Surveillance Network Program Lab Results
- N7L3-1619 – Hamlet of Paulatuk – 2020 Annual Report
- N7L1-1815 – MGM Energy Corporation – Unipkat M-45/Kumak I-25 Sump – 2019 Site Monitoring Report
- N7L1-1835 – GNWT INF - ITH – 2018 - 2019 Annual Report
- N7L1-1835 – GNWT INF - ITH – 2019 SNP Report
- N7L1-1835 – GNWT INF - ITH – 2019 - 2020 Annual Report
- N7L1-1834 – Shell Canada, Camp Farewell – 2019 Annual Report
- N7L1-1836 – Imperial Oil Resources, BAR-C - 2020 Annual Report
- N5L1-1843 – GNWT Infrastructure – Gunghi Creek Culvert Replacement – 2020 Annual Report
- N5L8-1837 – Repsol Oil and Gas Canada Inc. – 2019 Annual Report
  - Reclamation, Closure and Monitoring Plan (revised)

- N5L8-1837 – Repsol Oil and Gas Canada Inc. – 2020 Annual Report
- N3L8-1838 – Northwest Territories Power Corporation – Aklavik, NT - 2020 Annual Report
- N5L8-1841 – Imperial Oil – Tuk Base Remediation Project – 2019 Annual Report
- N3L8-1844 – Northwestel Inc. – Taglu Asset Removal Project – 2020 Annual Report
- N5L8-1840 – Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) – Mould Bay Final Report

#### ***Inspection Reports Received and Reviewed***

- N7L1-1797 – MGM Energy Corporation – Burnt Lake
- N7L1-1835 – GNWT Infrastructure – Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway
- N5L1-1843 – GNWT Infrastructure – Gunghi Creek
- N3L1-1710 – Inuvialuit Petroleum Corporation – Ikhil Drilling Waste Sump
- N3L1-1727 – Inuvialuit Petroleum Corporation – Ikhil Camp Sump
- N7L1-1769 – Japex Canada Ltd. - Mackenzie Delta Gas Hydrate Project
- N7L1-1773 – Shell Canada – 3-D Seismic Project
- N5L8-1841 – Imperial Oil – Tuk Base Remediation Project
- N3L8-1844 – Northwestel Inc. – Taglu Microwave Tower Asset Removal

## **5.0 Other IWB Activities**

Although IWB activities and projects were limited during this year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the associated travel restrictions, the IWB engaged in additional activities in support of its mandate. These included:

### ***World Water Day***

Initiatives identified in the IWB's Communications Strategy included public education and awareness projects dealing with water and waste management. The IWB engaged in a partnership with Parks Canada who hosted a World Water Day 2021 event with the staff and students at the Angik School in Paulatuk. The IWB assisted Parks Canada by providing Hazardous Waste Management and World Water Day pamphlets and Inuvialuit Water Board information and fact sheets to hand out to the students and to participants during the community open house event.

### ***Involvement in Meetings and Conferences***

IWB Board members and staff are regularly asked to participate in meetings and conferences related to the IWB mandate. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, numerous meetings were held to ensure staff safety and return to work initiatives. Some of the meetings and conferences attended in the past year include:

- Pan Territorial Board Forum Steering Committee - teleconferences
- Meetings with Stakeholders:
  - Inuvialuit Petroleum Corporation – Inuvialuit Energy Securities Project (IESP)
  - ECCC – Mould Bay
  - Canada Energy Regulator (CER)
  - Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) – Gunghi Creek
- Mack Travel Building – GNWT Employees Meeting - Return to work directives
- Critical Infrastructure Security Briefings
- Mack Travel Building Risk Assessments – Return to work planning

- Mack Travel Building – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor COVID-19 Guidelines
- Discussion of *Access to Information and the Protection of Privacy (ATIPP)* Act amendments
- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation – ISR Waste Sites and Sumps

### ***Activities with other Regulatory Boards within the NWT***

The IWB has continued to communicate and collaborate with other regulatory boards within the Mackenzie Valley and the ISR on areas of common interest related to water and waste licencing.

### ***Other Administrative and Board Activities***

GNWT ENR informed the IWB that the website required translation to French. The IWB discussed the requirements with ENR Communication division and determined that the IWB website main pages would be translated into French.

As required under the *Waters Act*, the IWB maintains a Public Register (all documents related to all water licence applications, licensing and reporting). The Public Register is housed in the Inuvik IWB office. A copy of the Public Register can be accessed on-line through the IWB website ([www.inuvwb.ca](http://www.inuvwb.ca)) and also includes a French version.

Throughout the year, in addition to fulfilling its core-mandated responsibilities, the IWB channelled significant time and effort in communicating with and discussing issues of shared interest or concern with communities and other regional and territorial bodies holding contributing responsibilities in the overall management of the regional and territorial environment. This beneficial sharing of information and broad coordination of approach and effort will continue throughout 2021 - 2022.

## **6.0 Areas of Focus for 2021 / 2022**

During the 2021 / 2022 year the IWB will focus on the following priorities:

- As per Goal 1 of the IWB Strategic Plan, the IWB will continue its efforts to monitor and improve the efficiency, effectiveness and timeliness of all licensing processes; will develop or update policies and procedures that reflect best practices and are generally consistent with other jurisdictions; and will engage in regulatory improvement processes and discussions related to water and waste management.
- As per Goal 2 of the IWB Strategic Plan, the IWB will implement its Communications Strategy to ensure all parties are aware of the IWB's processes, decisions and actions and the responsibilities of applicants and licence holders – including, but not limited to, the development of information fact sheets, pamphlets and brochures for general distribution.
- As per Goal 3 of the IWB Strategic Plan, the IWB will continue to work in partnership with government, resource management boards and communities with the aim of collaboratively enhancing community awareness and capacity in effective water use and waste management.
- As per Goal 4 of the IWB Strategic Plan, the IWB will review its staffing requirements to ensure the IWB is functioning efficiently and effectively.

- Planning for and completion of IWB Municipal Water Licence information sessions in each of the five (5) ISR communities during summer 2021.
- In advance of considering a renewal of the community of Ulukhaktuk water licence (expiring in November 2021), Board members and senior staff will tour the community's municipal water and waste management facilities and meet with the Mayor, Council members and senior operations staff to discuss issues related to the provision of water and waste services in their community.

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