



PO Box 32, Wekweètì NT X0E 1W0
Tel: 867-713-2500 Fax: 867-713-2502

#1-4905 48th Street, Yellowknife NT X1A 3S3
Tel: 867-765-4592 Fax: 867-765-4593
www.wlwb.ca

January 31, 2025

File: W2018L3-0001

Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Mackenzie Valley Review Board
200 Scotia Centre
Box 938, 5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife NT X1A 2N7

Sent by email

Dear Mark Cliffe-Phillips,

Re: Community Government of Gamètì – Notice of Preliminary Screening Reasons for Decision and Determination – Amendment on Board's Own Motion for Water Licence W2018L3-0001 – Municipal Undertaking, Gamètì, NWT

The Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board (Board) met on January 30, 2025 and considered the Amendment on the Board's Own Motion for the Community Government of Gamètì's Water Licence (Licence) W2018L3-0001 for the Municipal Undertaking in Gamètì in accordance with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA). The purpose of the amendment proceeding was to address gaps about Discharging Clean-in-Place (CIP) waste from the Water Supply Facility (WSF) to the Receiving Environment.

The Board has previously completed preliminary screenings of the Project. The Project was screened under Water Licence W2008L3-0001 and it was determined there was no likelihood of a significance adverse impact on the environment or might be a cause of public concern.¹ This screening considered impacts to ground water quality changes, surface water quality, wetland surface water, toxins in

¹ See WLWB Online Registry (www.wlwb.ca) for [W2008L3-0003 – Gameti Water Licence Preliminary Screening – Dec 18 2008](#)

vegetation, fish populations, toxin/heavy metals impacts to wildlife and fish, human health hazards, and soil contamination from sewage effluent. When the Water Licence was renewed in 2018 (W2018L3-0001), the Board determined the Project was exempt because the Licence Renewal Application did not include expansion of any new activities.^{2,3} The Board further screened the Project for an Amendment Application on August 8, 2019, and again decided not to refer the project to environmental assessment.⁴ This amendment and screening considered impacts to surface water quality and wetland surface water quality from Waste from the Water Supply Facility. Mitigations for potential impacts associated with the Project were described in the December 18, 2008 and/or August 8, 2019 Preliminary Screenings, and are reflected in the current Licence. Mitigations include: a Spill Contingency Plan, an Operation and Maintenance Plan, and sampling at appropriate Surveillance Network Program locations.

The current Water Licence amendment deals with the overland discharge of CIP Waste from the WSF (i.e., direct discharge to the Receiving Environment). The previous amendment considered direct discharge of the other two waste types from the WSF to the Receiving Environment and discharge of CIP Waste to the Sewage Lagoon (i.e., indirect release to the Receiving Environment). The Board is of the view that potential impacts from direct overland Discharge of Waste from the Water Supply Facilities are addressed by the existing mitigations mentioned above. The Board will also consider adding a SNP site to the Licence for CIP Discharge to the Receiving Environment. The Board's July 29, 2024 Reasons for Decision also determined that the evidence at the time did not suggest that discharging CIP waste overland would be harmful to the Receiving Environment.⁵ Gamètì has indicated that CIP waste is dechlorinated and acidity is neutralized prior to disposal, with limited Discharge of 1.8 m³ four times a year. Further, no Parties identified additional screening requirements or concerns in review of the draft Licence.⁶

Accordingly, the Board has decided not to refer the proposed changes to the Project to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) for Environmental Assessment because, based on the evidence, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed changes to the Project are not likely to have a significant adverse impact on air, water, and/or renewable resources, and will not be a cause of public concern. If the Board does not receive a notice of referral to environmental assessment by February 10, 2025, the Board can issue the Licence on February 11, 2025.

Please contact Anneli Jokela via [email](#) or at (867) 765-4588 with any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

² See WLWB Online Registry (www.wlwb.ca) for [Gameti – Type B Water Licence – Reasons for Decision – Dec 21 19](#)

³ See WLWB Online Registry for [W2008L3-0003 – Gameti Water Licence Preliminary Screening – Dec 18 2008](#)

⁴ See WLWB Online Registry for [Gameti – Water Licence – Amendment – Preliminary Screening Notification and Determination – Aug 8 19](#)

⁵ See WLWB Online Registry for [Gameti – WSF CTP V 1.1 and O and M Plan V 3.2 – Reasons for Decision – Jul 29 24](#)

⁶ See WLWB Online Review System for [Gamètì - Licence Amendment on Board's Own Motion - Draft Licence Conditions](#)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mason Mantla', written in a cursive style.

Mason Mantla

On behalf of the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board

BCC'd to: Wek'èezhì Distribution List
 Richard Leong, SAO, Community Government of Gamètì