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January 31, 2025

File: W2017L3-0001

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: Tłıchq Community Government of Wekweètì – Notice of Preliminary Screening Reasons for Decision and Determination – Amendment on Board’s Own Motion for Water Licence W2017L3-0001 – Municipal Undertaking – Wekweètì, NT**

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 Tłıchq Community Government of Wekweètì’s Water Licence (Licence) W2017L3-0001 for the Municipal Undertaking in Wekweètì (Project) 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 W2007L3-0001 and it was determined there was no likelihood of a significant adverse impact on the environment or might be a cause of public concern.<sup>1</sup> This screening considered impacts from sewage effluent to surface and groundwater quality changes, wetland surface water quality, soil contamination, toxin/heavy metal accumulation in vegetation, wildlife, and fish, and human health

<sup>1</sup> See WLWB Online Registry ([www.wlwb.ca](http://www.wlwb.ca)) for [W2007L3-0001 - Wekweeti - Water Licence - Preliminary Screening - Sep 27 07](#)

hazards. When the Water Licence was renewed in 2017 (W2017L3-0001), the Board determined the Project was exempt because the Licence Renewal Application did not include expansion of any new activities.<sup>2,3</sup> The Board further screened the Project for an Amendment Application on July 28, 2020, and again decided not to refer the project to environmental assessment.<sup>4</sup> This amendment and screening considered contamination of local soils and surface water bodies and subsequent impacts to water quality, human health, wildlife, fish, and their habitat. Mitigations for potential impacts associated with the Project were described in the September 27, 2007 and/or July 28, 2020 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 WSF 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.<sup>5</sup> Wekweètì has indicated that CIP waste is dechlorinated and acidity is neutralized prior to disposal, with limited Discharge of 1.8 m<sup>3</sup> four times a year. Further, no Parties identified additional screening requirements or concerns in review of the draft Licence.<sup>6</sup>

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 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.

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<sup>2</sup> See WLWB Online Registry for [Wekweeti - Type B Water Licence Renewal - Reasons for Decision - Sep 27 17](#)

<sup>3</sup> See WLWB Online Registry for [W2007L3-0001 - Wekweeti - Water Licence - Preliminary Screening - Sep 27 07](#)

<sup>4</sup> See WLWB Online Registry for [Wekweeti - WL Amendment - PS Determination Notification and RFD - Jul 28 20](#)

<sup>5</sup> See WLWB Online Registry for [Wekweètì - WSF CTP V1.0 and O and M Plan V3.1 - Reasons for Decision - July 29 24](#)

<sup>6</sup> See WLWB Online Review System ([new.onlinereviewssystem.ca](http://new.onlinereviewssystem.ca)) for [Wekweètì - 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  
Fred Behrens, SAO, Community Government of Wekweètì