

Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development



Ministre des Affaires
indiennes et du Nord canadien

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

OCT 23 2003

Mr. W. Hagen
Chair
Gwich'in Land and Water Board
PO Box 2018
INUVIK NT X0E 0T0

Mr. L. Wallace
Chair
Sahtu Land and Water Board
PO Box 1
FT. GOOD HOPE NT X0E 0H0

Ms. M. McLeod
Chair
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
PO Box 2130
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P6

Mr. G. Wray
Chair
Northwest Territories Water Board
PO Box 1500
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2R3

Dear Chairs:

I am pleased to provide each Board with water licencing responsibilities in the Northwest Territories (NWT), and a copy of the recently approved *Policy Respecting the Prohibition of Bulk Water Removals from Major Drainage Basins in the Northwest Territories*. A similar policy, relevant to Nunavut, is being sent to the Nunavut Water Board.

The federal, provincial and territorial governments expressed support for prohibiting bulk water removals, and reached an agreement at the Council of Canadian Ministers of the Environment meeting in 1999 that they would work towards putting in place such a prohibition. To date, all the Provinces have put into place or are developing policy and/or legislation to accomplish this. In the three northern territories, prohibitions on bulk removals can be achieved through the application of existing water legislation. The enclosed policy has been developed in close consultation with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

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Canada

G/H

The policy contains elements that sets out the approach to be applied, the underlying principles are outlined and the major basins out of which bulk fresh water transfers are prohibited, are defined. The volume that is considered to be "bulk" is also defined, as are the exemptions.

It is my expectation that the Boards that issue water licences in the NWT will carry out their licencing responsibilities consistent with this policy. I will be guided by it in my consideration of licences submitted to me by the Boards for approval, and as such, will not approve any licences issued to authorize the transfer of bulk fresh water out of the major drainage basins.

I have issued, in conjunction with the GNWT, a press release which notifies the public of the release of this policy. This release should serve to inform the NWT public that both levels of government have taken a position on bulk fresh water transfer and established a means of ensuring a prohibition. It will also serve as 'up-front' notice of the inadvisability of any potential party considering an application to the Boards for the removal of water in bulk from NWT water basins.

If all of us who have responsibilities to ensure the appropriate utilization of the water resources of the NWT are willing to work in accordance with this policy, I am confident that together we can achieve the intended objectives of providing all Canadians the optimum benefit from these resources, and particularly residents of the NWT.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Nault". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "D".

Robert D. Nault, PC, MP

Encl.



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

OCT 23 2003

Mr. T. Kudloo
Chair
Nunavut Water Board
PO Box 119
GJOA HAVEN NU X0B 1J0

Dear Mr. Kudloo:

I am pleased to provide the Nunavut Water Board with the enclosed copy of the recently approved *Policy Respecting the Prohibition of Bulk Water Removals from Major Drainage Basins in Nunavut*. A similar policy, relevant to the Northwest Territories (NWT), is being sent to the Boards responsible for issuing water licences in the NWT.

The federal, provincial and territorial governments expressed support for prohibiting bulk water removals and reached an agreement at the Council of Canadian Ministers of the Environment meeting in 1999 that they would work towards putting in place such a prohibition. To date, all the Provinces have put into place or are developing policy and/or legislation to accomplish this. In the three northern territories prohibitions on bulk removals can be achieved through the application of existing water legislation. The enclosed policy has been developed in close consultation with the Government of Nunavut.

The policy contains elements that sets out the approach to be applied, the underlying principles are outlined and the major basins out of which bulk fresh water transfers are prohibited, are defined. The volume that is considered to be "bulk" is also defined, as are the exemptions.

It is my expectation that the Nunavut Water Board will carry out its licencing responsibilities consistent with this policy. I will be guided by it in my consideration of licences submitted to me by the Board for approval, and as such, will not approve any licences issued to authorize the transfer of bulk fresh water out of the major drainage basins.

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I have issued, in conjunction with the Government of Nunavut, a press release which notifies the public of the release of this policy. This release should serve to inform the Nunavut public that both levels of government have taken a position on bulk fresh water transfer and have established a means of ensuring a prohibition. It will also serve as 'up-front' notice of the inadvisability of any potential party considering an application to the Board for the removal of water in bulk from Nunavut water basins.

If all of us who have responsibilities to ensure the appropriate utilization of the water resources of Nunavut are willing to work in accordance with this policy, I am confident that together we can achieve the intended objectives of providing all Canadians the optimum benefit from these resources, and particularly residents of Nunavut.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Nault". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Nault" clearly distinguishable.

Robert D. Nault, PC, MP

Encl.