



APR 23 2020

BY EMAIL

To all Water Licence holders in the NWT:

Government of the Northwest Territories - Environment and Natural Resources Compliance and Enforcement Strategy- Covid-19-March 2020

The COVID-19 outbreak is impacting people in the Northwest Territories (NWT), Canada and the world as a whole. The first priority of the Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Natural Resources (GNWT-ENR) is the health and safety of our inspectors, the public and protection of the environment.

Compliance with relevant authorizations, legislation, and associated management and monitoring plans is still required even in the midst of a global pandemic, but the tools we use to maintain and monitor compliance will be adapted to minimize human contact while at the very least maintaining our current levels of communication with Licensees operating in the NWT.

The need for social distancing and potentially self-isolation and quarantine are affecting our approach to compliance and enforcement of Water Licences and required management and monitoring plans (e.g. Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plans) in the NWT.

GNWT-ENR has moved to have all staff work from home and this includes inspectors monitoring compliance at industrial sites throughout the NWT.

Although inspectors may be working from home on a day to day basis, on-site inspections will still be required so that Licensees operating can demonstrate compliance and inspectors can verify and report on the status of active water licences. Every effort will be made to maintain social distancing and minimize the risk to both the people working at site and the inspector who will be returning home at the end of the day.

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Communication between inspectors and site personnel will be critical during this time. GNWT-ENR will be using government vehicles and aircraft charters for any remote site inspections required. No use of industry charters is being contemplated to minimize the risk of exposure to inspectors or people working at industrial sites. Wherever possible we will rely on the Licensee to demonstrate compliance through photographs, providing weekly updates and in general demonstrating a commitment to compliance. We will reduce on-site inspections as much as we can with the understanding that they cannot be eliminated completely. We expect Licensees to notify relevant inspectors as soon as possible if there are unforeseen or predicted limitations to availability of industry personnel related to COVID-19 that may affect the ability to remain in compliance with relevant authorizations, legislation, or required management and monitoring plans.

Thank you for your continued commitment to compliance and cooperation during this difficult time.

If you have any questions about our strategy or wish to share any comments, please contact me at [Brett Elkin@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Brett.Elkin@gov.nt.ca) or at (867) 767-9055 ext. 53001

Sincerely,



Brett Elkin
A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations
Environment and Natural Resources