

MEDICAL SERVICES BRANCH

L.M. Black
Director General
Program Management

Date: 11.04.75

A:
TO:

M 67

REMARKS
REMARQUES:

Would appreciate your advice on this. Could you liaise with D.O.E. if necessary, to obtain consensus. Thanks

Directeur général
Gestion des programmes

DIRECTION DES SERVICES MÉDICAUX

850-5-X751

MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

TO: Director General
Program Management

FROM: Regional Director
Northwest Territories Region

ACTION		PA date	BF date
M 14			
INFORMATION			
M 67	M	M	
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SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE 150-5-M (N3)
YOUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE
DATE March 21, 1975

SUBJECT: Yellowknife Sewage Disposal
OBJET:

We have previously made you aware of the proposal of the City of Yellowknife to dispose of their sewage by the simple expedient of running it untreated into Kam Lake.

Kam Lake is a long (about 2 miles) somewhat irregular and in places, quite deep lake which could in no way be considered as suitable for use as a lagoon.

Lagoons should be properly maintained by weed and insect control and should be fenced, neither of which requirements would, or could, be met.

Lagoon depth should be a uniform 5-7 feet in order to make use of aerobic breakdown. In a lake whose depth varies from 0-42 feet with a mean of 18 feet, aerobic breakdown would be minimal even if there were not nine months of ice cover each year.

There is an additional problem here in that the lake currently contains 3-4 p.p.m. of Arsenic in the As⁺⁵ form. The best biological opinion available indicates that the type of b.o.d. loading which would result from the lakes receiving all of Yellowknife's sewage would slowly change all the As⁺⁵ to the more toxic reduced As⁺³ form, which would then find its way to Great Slave Lake along the normal overflow route.

Furthermore there is some real doubt that sewage digestion would be effective at all because of the inhibiting effect on bacterial decomposition of As at the levels existing in this lake.

In brief, we have a situation in which the City of Yellowknife is proposing to flout the regulations under the Public Health Act, as well as the Inland Waters Act and the Fisheries Act.

11 Apr 77
M 67
Diff. would appreciate your advice on this. Could you liaise with DOE if necessary, to obtain consensus? That's for

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**MEDICAL SERVICES
HEADQUARTERS**

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QUARTIERS GENERAUX
SERVICES MEDICAUX

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

10/10/1944
 10/10/1944

HENRIE HUBBARD
 DIRECTOR GUNST

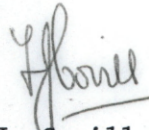
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Director General
Program Management

150-5-M (N3)
March 21, 1975

Although we may in fact be unable to stop this retrograde development - since the Commissioner has the ultimate power to negate any ruling by the M.O.H., it is believed that we could be accused in the future of dereliction of duty if we did not make every effort to halt the process.

For these reasons, we are asking whether it would seem advisable to seek an injunction from the Court to restrain the City of Yellowknife from breaking the law.



F.J. Covill, M.B., B.S., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.
Regional Director

/sa

*Fahleman suggests letter to
IAB - DM to DM.
copy to Environment Can.
not in concert c*