

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

YELLOWKNIFE
O. & WATERS
DEPT. SECRETARY OFFICE

8/3/57

Dr. E. A. Watkinson:

455-10-13

Kingsley Kay:

Dec. 23/54.

DRB Enquiry 20th December re hazard from drinking
water from ice and snow at Yellowknife:

In 1950 two prospectors developed arsenic poisoning from drinking water made from snow at the Akaitcho mine some three miles north of Giant Yellowknife Mine. In 1951, a child died of arsenic poisoning supposed to have resulted from drinking snow water on Latham Island which is the general centre of the contaminated area. As a result of these cases and our knowledge of snow levels we should recommend against the drinking of water made from ice and snow in the area. The outer limit of contamination is not known and in the absence of such information a 25 mile radius would be a desirable limit to recommend.

KK

KK/MV.

Kingsley Kay.