



TO
A

MEMORANDUM

850-5-X751

CLASSIFICATION

Director General, Medical Services

YOUR FILE No.
Votre dossier

OUR FILE No. 150-5-X751 (N1)
Notre dossier

Northern Region

DATE July 24 1968

FROM
De

FOLD

SUBJECT
Sujet

Arsenic Surveys of Yellowknife Bay and Turbidity
Survey of Yellowknife River - July 19, 1968

Resources

Mr. J. Grainge has recently produced the above report (copy attached) in which he shows that the arsenic concentration on the east bank of the "narrows" is below the suggested limit of 0.01 mg/l.

Mr. Grainge therefore recommends that the intake pipe for the town water supply could safely be placed at this point.

Mr. Grainge is basing his findings on surveys carried out over a few months and on the economics of pipeline construction.

Much as I respect Mr. Grainge's opinion on this subject, I cannot concur with it. We are planning a water supply which we would hope would serve Yellowknife for the next fifty years without undue maintenance and without the necessity for repeated arsenic analyses. The "narrows" are 1000 feet across and in June of this year an arsenic concentration of 0.262 was found in the western portion which is 26 times the allowable concentration. At that time the eastern portion showed a concentration of only 0.002 which, I feel, with changing sandbars, channels and movement of water by wind currents and ice break-up, would not be sufficiently safe to locate the intake at the "narrows".

Therefore, if funds are available I would suggest that the intake be above the entry of the creek discharging effluent from the tailings pond. If funds are very short, it may be permissible to use the eastern part of the "narrows" as an intake point for a limited period, but in this case regular estimations of arsenic content would be necessary.

B. C. B. L.
Regional Director

Enc.

cc - Mr. J. Grainge

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M/L				

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MEDICAL SERVICES
SUB-REGISTRY

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JUL 29

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TO: [illegible]
FROM: [illegible]
SUBJECT: [illegible]
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AMERICAN