



TO  
A

*McKendricks  
Public Health  
Engineering*

# MEMORANDUM

Director General

*Your comments on  
paragraphs 1 and  
2 would be  
appreciated. M.H.B.*

*18-12-67  
M.H.B.*

*850-5-X751*

CLASSIFICATION

*PA.*

YOUR FILE No. 850-5-X751 (M16)  
Votre dossier

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

FROM  
De

Northern Region

DATE December 6, 1967

FOLD

SUBJECT  
Sujet

Arsenic Pollution - Yellowknife Bay, N.W.T.

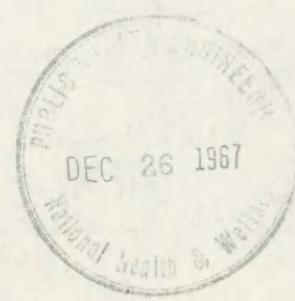
With reference to your letter of November 27, 1967, it would appear that there is some misunderstanding as to where the Public Health Engineers recommended the intake. If you read the report carefully, they recommended the intake in the mouth of the river below the point where the creek from the tailings pond enters the river mouth. They recommended that this could be dammed to prevent effluent from the tailings pond entering the river mouth.

As Chief Medical Health Officer I questioned whether an earthen dam would stand up to freeze-up and break-up, as from experience in this area we have found that all dams are likely to have numerous leaks. I put these points to Mr. Grainge who wrote the report and he agreed that further investigations were necessary. One of his engineers has inspected the site again and they found 8 leaks in the temporary dam which had been erected. Mr. Grainge is now recommending that the intake of the water supply should be right up in the river itself and above the creek entry and not in the river mouth.

Therefore, my queries were valid and action has been taken as a result of raising them.

With reference to your final paragraph. Mr. Yates asked for my opinion of the recommendations as Chief Medical Health Officer of the Northwest Territories and as we make and enforce the regulations on water and sewage supplies and other Health matters, I always had the privilege (and right by legislation) of corresponding direct on such matters. You will note that my letter to Mr. Yates in answer to his query was signed as Chief Medical and Health Officer.

I am most concerned that I should be reprimanded as Chief Medical Health Officer for raising a query which has resulted in changes being made in the recommendations re water intake point and which if these changes had not been made, would have resulted in a contaminated supply even after the expenditure of over 1 million dollars.



*[Signature]*  
Regional Director



