



Small Drinking Water Systems: Who does what in Northwest Territories?

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1.0 Source Water Protection:

1.1 Who has a stewardship role related to water source protection (lead agency)?

Government of the Northwest Territories is responsible for managing drinking water in the NWT and the federal *Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Canada (AANDC)* is responsible for managing other water resources.¹

Department of Environment and Natural Resources, with *AANDC*, and guided by an Aboriginal Steering Committee, released *Northern Voices, Northern Waters: NWT Water Stewardship Strategy* as a collaborative approach to responsible water stewardship.²

Currently the federal government has primary responsibility for source water management. Departments are involved in several partnerships that also undertake initiatives to promote the protection of source water.³

1.2 Who oversees liquid and solid waste management?

At the federal level, *Environment Canada* plays a lead role in managing liquid and waste management with respect to surface waters. In 2009 the *Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment* (CCME) developed the *Municipal Wastewater Effluent Strategy*, aimed at providing a harmonized national framework for managing wastewater. From the Strategy, the Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations (WSER) were developed and came into effect on January 1, 2013.⁴

The Regulations apply to any wastewater system that deposits deleterious substances specified in the Regulations into water frequented by fish or a place referred to in subsection 36(3) of the Fisheries Act and that is designed to collect an average daily volume of influent of 100 m³ (100 000 litres) or more or that actually collects an average daily volume of influent of 100 m³ or more during any calendar year. As of January 1st, wastewater systems operators are expected to begin:

- monitoring effluent quality and quantity;
- keeping records in preparation for sending initial identification reporting to Environment Canada in May;

¹ <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nth/wa/wm-eng.asp>

² <http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/pages/wpPages/water.aspx>

³ <http://www.pws.gov.nt.ca/pdf/WaterAndSanitation/WaterFramework.pdf>

⁴ <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2012-139/FullText.html>

- recording combined sewer overflow if applicable.⁵

At the territorial level, the *Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley* regulate the use of land and water and the deposit of waste through the issuance of land use permits and water licences.⁶

Public Works and Services (PWS)⁷ and other government departments work together to provide safe drinking water and effective sewage systems in NWT communities. PWS provides support by:

- reviewing the design of government-managed water and sewage projects;
- carrying out inspections and operational reviews of water supply systems;
- undertaking pilot studies for evaluating potential water treatment process upgrades;
- updating and developing technical standards and guidelines;
- commissioning water and sewage systems;
- providing technical assistance during construction;
- training water treatment plant operators;
- providing a link to the National Federal/Provincial/Territorial Subcommittee on Drinking Water and keeping up to date with current water treatment technologies and water quality issues;
- providing technical guidance and expertise in the areas of water treatment operations, troubleshooting, water sampling and testing, water system operator training, water treatment optimization and conducting pilot studies;
- assisting *Municipal and Community Affairs* (MACA) in the development of a simple, easy-to-use and understandable Operations and Management and Preventative Maintenance Workplan;
- helping MACA undertake a water and sewer system review to identify any gaps;
- providing technical advice to regulatory agencies/ departments (i.e., Environment and Natural Resources, Health and Social Services) in developing policies or guidelines related to water safety; and
- assisting in the maintenance of a water quality database.

At the municipal level, many smaller settlements have no central water supply or waste disposal system; all larger settlements do. Present community servicing systems are generally of one of two types; often both exist within one community. They are: a trucked system and a piped system, usually above ground in heated or insulated structures called utilidors.⁸

Relevant legislation includes the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines and the Public Health Act for NWT (Northern Voices, Northern Waters. NWT Water Stewardship Strategy).⁹

1.3 Who is responsible for land use planning activities (from livestock to farming practices, including activities addressing drinking water concerns)?

In the southern portion of the NWT, which is guided by *the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) land use permits and water licences are issued by regional *Land and Water Boards*. An applicant that requires a Land Use Permit in the *Inuvialuit Settlement Region* needs to communicate with *Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada* for projects located on crown land or with the *Inuvialuit Land Administration* for projects located on Inuvialuit Private Land.¹⁰

⁵ <http://www.auma.ca/live/MuniLink/Communications/Member+Notices?contentId=16053>

⁶ http://mylwb.com/sites/default/files/documents/MVLWB-Guidelines-for-Developing-a-Waste-Management-Plan-Mar-31_11-JCWG.pdf

⁷ <http://www.pws.gov.nt.ca>

⁸ <http://pubs.aina.ucalgary.ca/arctic/Arctic26-2-149.pdf>

⁹ http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/documents/content/NWT_Water_Stewardship_Strategy.pdf

¹⁰ <http://www.nwtwb.com/faq.html>

There are currently 11 natural resource management and advisory boards in the NWT.¹¹ These are:

[Northwest Territories Water Board](#)
[Inuvialuit Environmental Impact Review Board](#)
[Inuvialuit Environmental Impact Steering Committee](#)
[Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board](#)
[Gwich'in Land and Water Board](#)
[Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board](#)
[Sahtu Land Use Planning Board](#)
[Sahtu Land and Water Board](#)
[Sahtu Renewable Resources Board](#)
[Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee](#)
[Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board](#)
[Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board](#)
[Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board](#)
[Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board](#)
[Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency Board](#)
[Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Department manages use and development of natural resources and this responsibility is shared with Aboriginal, federal, territorial, and municipal governments, boards and agencies and every resident of the Northwest Territories.¹²

1.4 Who is responsible for ensuring that activities, such as construction of highway infrastructure, logging, or mining neither degrade source waters nor introduce contaminants into the water supply?

Natural resource management in the Northwest Territories is an integrated system, which includes land use planning, environmental impact review and monitoring, regulatory approvals and cumulative impact monitoring. Natural resource management and advisory boards are integral to the system.¹³

On Crown Land in the *Inuvialuit Settlement Region*, a Land Use Permit is required from the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) unless the extent of the potential impacts of the proposed project on the environment fall below the thresholds outlined in the regulations.^{14,15}

AANDC's Operations Directorate administers the field activities of the department in the NWT through its district and sub-district offices. It regulates the use of land under the Territorial Lands Act and the Federal Real Property Act through its Land Administration office. District offices are located throughout the NWT and are responsible for the administration, inspection, and enforcement of environmental legislation. They also serve as the field contact for all departmental clients.¹⁶

1.5 Who delivers permits to draw water?

¹¹ http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/pages/wpPages/NWT_Natural_Resource_Management_Boards.aspx

¹² <http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/pages/wpPages/Home.aspx>

¹³ http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/pages/wpPages/Natural_Resource_Management_Boards.aspx

¹⁴ <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ai/scr/nt/ntr/pubs/clg11-eng.asp>

¹⁵ <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ai/scr/nt/ntr/pubs/nlug2-eng.asp>

¹⁶ <http://www.accessnwt.ca/licensing/land-and-water-regulators>

Northwest Territories (NWT) Water Board is responsible for Water Licences in the *Inuvialuit Settlement Region* (ISR). NWT Water Board provides for the conservation, development, and utilization of the water resources of the ISR. Under the *Northwest Territories Waters Act*, an application must be made to the Board, and a Licence issued, prior to the use of any waters or disposal of any waterborne waste. The only exclusions are the use of water for domestic purposes, in-stream uses such as fishing, swimming, or boating, to put out a fire, or in an emergency, to control or prevent a flood.¹⁷

NWT Water Board's jurisdiction is the Inuvialuit Settlement Region within the NWT and is limited to use of freshwater and disposal of waste that may come into contact with water.^{18,19}

1.6 Who has control over the watershed and delineates the watershed/aquifer area?

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada is responsible for the management of water resources on NWT Crown land, including but not limited to the following: water data collection; water research; protecting of migratory birds; safeguarding fisheries resources, habitat and freshwater environments; and, maintaining navigable waterways. The Government of NWT is responsible for public water supply regulation within the territory. Regulatory Boards issue water licences that permit the use of water and/or disposal of waste into water. Settled land claim and self-government agreements, as well as current legislation, policies, and programs, serve to establish stewardship of water resources.²⁰

1.7 Who is responsible for the watershed/aquifer management plan? (The plan establishes measures to reduce risks. The watershed management plan may also include an incident and emergency response plan, plan for water conservation, and contingency plans for dealing with water scarcity emergencies).

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's (AANDC's) responsibilities include the development, implementation, and interpretation of water management legislation and policy in the NWT.²¹ This includes:

- licencing under the waters legislation;
- enforcement and compliance (under the *Northwest Territories Waters Act* and water licence inspections);
- water data collection (in collaboration with the Government of NWT and Environment Canada); and
- water planning (watersheds and site-specific research programs).

AANDC's Indian and Inuit Affairs Division provides assistance and funds to assist with water and wastewater services within reserve communities.

AANDC's Water Resources Division provides expert advice for the protection of water quality and is responsible for the water management in Nunavut and the NWT. It is also responsible for:

- developing and managing scientific programs which include the collection, analysis, interpretation, and distribution of water quantity/ quality information, and conducting specific aquatic ecosystem studies;
- developing guidelines and codes of practice for water resource management and monitoring;

¹⁷ <http://www.accessnwt.ca/licensing/land-and-water-regulators>

¹⁸ <http://www.nwtwb.com/faq.html>

¹⁹ <http://www.nwtwb.com/responsibility.html>

²⁰ Appendix E

(http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/documents/content/NWT_Water_Stewardship_Strategy.pdf)

²¹ http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/documents/content/NWT_Water_Stewardship_Strategy.pdf

- providing ongoing expert scientific and technical advice to a wide range of clients in the NWT; and
- collecting water quantity/quality information at AANDC federal contaminated sites.

1.8 Any source vulnerability assessment and ranking?

The report, Waterproof 3, awarded a “C” grade to the Northwest Territories with respect to source water protection. The rating was reported as follows: “Seems poised for significant improvement. Though no Source Water Protection measures are in place, the Northwest Territories has taken steps to recognize the right to water and is undergoing an ambitious review of its water laws.”²²

2.0 Water Treatment and Distribution:

2.1 Any lead funding organization for water system planning and infrastructure improvements?

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada has a lead role in water planning (watersheds and site-specific research programs).²³

Department of Municipal and Community Affairs provides funding, research, and policy development in water and wastewater. MACA’s enabling legislation allows communities to provide water delivery services.

Department of Public Works and Services provides technical expertise, training and operational assistance for water supply infrastructure.

Northwest Territories Water Board provides for the conservation, development, and utilization of inland waters through its licensing processes, in particular, for the residents of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.²⁴

Additional roles and responsibilities of Government of NWT Departments are as follows:

Department of Health and Social Services sets the standards for drinking water quality and supplies, based on legislation and Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, then monitors, regulates, and inspects water systems, and enforces the regulations.

Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is responsible for monitoring, inspecting, and regulating the discharge of contaminants to the environment.

Roles and responsibilities of Federal Departments are as follows:

Department of Fisheries and Oceans is responsible for protecting and ensuring the quality of fish habitat. *Water Boards* are responsible for the water licensing process in the NWT.

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada is responsible for the protection of inland waters and monitors compliance to the water licenses granted by the various boards.

Health Canada recommends drinking water criteria and standards to provincial jurisdictions.

²² <http://www.ecojustice.ca/publications/files/canadas-drinking-water-report-card-infographic-1>

²³ http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/documents/content/NWT_Water_Stewardship_Strategy.pdf

²⁴ <http://www.nwtwb.com/home.html>

Environment Canada is responsible for reducing the discharge of contaminants and performing an environmental assessment before the water licences are granted.²⁵

2.2 Any construction permits?

Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (Government of NWT), Office of Fire Marshal is the authority having jurisdiction over building, fire, and plumbing regulation. The Building by-law is generally managed by *municipalities*.

2.3 Any fee collected for water distribution?

Northwest Territories Water Board collects fees. The fees payable by a licensee for the right to use of water are calculated on an annual basis per Section 9 of the Northwest Territories Waters Regulations.²⁶ The water use fees are charged for the right to use water.²⁷

2.4 Any operator permit? Any training? How new policies are disseminated?

*Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA)*²⁸ (Government of NWT) provides funding to support communities to provide water and sewage services through the Water and Sewer Services Funding Policy. Communities are funded according to a standard cost model. This model assumes a due diligence approach to operations and that community governments will charge consumers for water and sewage services. It also recognizes that there is a “fixed” cost of operations, regardless of consumption.

MACA responsibilities include:

- providing classroom and hands-on training to operators;
- offering educational opportunities through the School of Community Government for community officials with respect to water, wastewater and waste disposal;
- assisting in the identification of necessary infrastructure;
- supporting the Senior Administrative Officer (SAO) in the development of the Community Infrastructure Plan;
- recommending alternative funding sources; and
- assisting the SAO in the development of a simple, easy-to-use, and understandable Operations and Management and Preventative Maintenance Workplan.

Relevant Legislation:

- Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines
- *Commissioner's Lands Act*
- *Civil Emergency Measures Act*²⁹
- Guidelines for the Planning, Design, Operations and Maintenance of Modified Solid Waste Sites in the Northwest Territories

2.5 Any assessment of treatment system? Any licence of treatment system? By whom?

*Department of Health and Social Services (HSS)*³⁰ (Government of NWT) regulates drinking water safety under the authority of the *Public Health Act*³¹ and *Water Supply System Regulations (WSSR)*³² for the NWT. WSSR Regulations include:

²⁵ <http://www.pws.gov.nt.ca/pdf/GEP/GEP-Northern%20Water%20and%20Sewer%20Systems.pdf>

²⁶ <http://www.nwtwb.com/publications.html>

²⁷ <http://www.nwtwb.com/faq.html>

²⁸ <http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca>

²⁹ <http://www.canlii.org/en/nt/laws/stat/rsnwt-1988-c-c-9/latest/rsnwt-1988-c-c-9.html>

³⁰ www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca

³¹ <http://www.canlii.org/en/nu/laws/stat/rsnwt-nu-1988-c-p-12/latest/rsnwt-nu-1988-c-p-12.html>

- Chief Public Health Officer (or delegate) approving of the water source;
- Chief Public Health Officer approving of the design and operation of water treatment plan and distribution system;
- mandatory certification of water treatment plant operators; and
- minimum water sampling and testing of raw and treated water.

Environmental Health Officers regularly inspect water treatment plants and closely monitor water sampling and testing.

NWT Drinking Water Sampling and Testing Requirements and other information for Drinking Water Operators are available through the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.³³

About two thirds of all NWT communities with a water supply system now have the required water licenses. Work is progressing towards having all communities with up-to-date water licenses.

2.6 Who is responsible for the maintenance and upgrade of the water treatment?

Community governments are responsible for operating and maintaining Water Treatment Plants (WTPs). They are responsible for the treatment and safety of the water supply in those operations. Responsibilities include treatment of water to meet the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, submitting water samples to a laboratory for bacteriological and chemical analysis, and maintaining records of raw water quality, finished water quality, and the amounts of chemicals used in treatment.

The GNWT inspects WTPs and reviews water quality data from communities to ensure the treated water is safe. The Chief Public Health Officer (or delegate) is responsible for approving of the design and operation of water treatment plan and distribution system.

2.7 Any requirements for the water supply system?

Department of Municipal and Community Affairs sets standards for water system development, coordinates training, and provides financial assistance for the training of water treatment plant officers operators. The Department is also responsible for the certification of water treatment plant operators.³⁴

3.0 Drinking Water Quality and Monitoring:

3.1 Who is the lead agency for drinking water quality?

Department of Health and Social Services (HSS)³⁵ is the lead agency and regulates drinking water safety under the authority of the *Public Health Act*³⁶ and *Water Supply System Regulations* (WSSR)³⁷ for the NWT. HSS sets the standards for drinking water quality and supplies, based on legislation and Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, monitors, regulates, and inspects water systems, and enforces the regulations.

Management of drinking water is the shared responsibility of all levels of government. Community governments are responsible for operating and maintaining Water Treatment Plants (WTPs). The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is responsible for the regulation of water supply

³² <http://www.canlii.org/en/nt/laws/regu/nwt-reg-108-2009/latest/nwt-reg-108-2009.html>

³³ http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/?page_id=3620

³⁴ <http://www.water.ca/wkd-guide-drink-water-1.asp>

³⁵ <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>

³⁶ <http://www.canlii.org/en/nu/laws/stat/rsnwt-nu-1988-c-p-12/latest/rsnwt-nu-1988-c-p-12.html>

³⁷ <http://www.canlii.org/en/nt/laws/regu/nwt-reg-108-2009/latest/nwt-reg-108-2009.html>

systems, providing certification training and support to WTP operators, and for working collaboratively with stakeholders to implement the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy. The GNWT also inspects WTPs and reviews water quality data from communities to ensure the treated water is safe.^{38,39}

GNWT's direct legislative mandate on water issues is limited to drinking water quality and environmental protection. The authority of *Environment and Natural Resources* (ENR), as it applies to water resources, is primarily a function of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA). ENR also has some authority under other legislation that may touch upon water resources. ENR responsibilities include:

- sustainability of water resources;
- transboundary water negotiations;
- wildlife and forestry management; and
- responsibilities delegated by the federal Minister (as outlined in Section 4 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*) and functioning as the de facto "responsible minister."

3.2 Who defines water quality standards?

Water Supply System Regulations adopt the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, making these the guidelines regulation in the NWT.

Relevant Legislation:

- *Public Health Act* for the NWT
- Water Supply System Regulations (Note: The regulations adopt the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, making these guidelines regulation in the NWT)
- *Environmental Protection Act* and Regulations
- *Forestry Management Act* and Regulations
- *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*
- *Pesticides Act* and Regulations
- *Water Resource Agreements Act*

3.3 Who is responsible for administering drinking water regulations, if any?

Department of Health and Social Services (HSS)⁴⁰ regulates drinking water safety and sets the standards for drinking water quality.

3.4 Who enforces regulations, if any?

The responsibility for ensuring safe drinking water is vested with the Government of the Northwest Territories, which has passed specific public health legislation designed to ensure the safety of drinking water supplies. *Department of Health and Social Services* (HSS) is the regulator and is responsible for enforcing the Public Health Act, Water Supply System Regulations, and General Sanitation Regulations as well as ensuring the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality are met.

Environmental Health Officers and *Medical Health Officers*, employed by the Department of Health and Social Services (and the HSS Authorities), act as regulators to ensure safe drinking water. The legislation covers a multi-barrier approach to ensure water safety. This includes source protection, water treatment (mandatory disinfection), good operation and maintenance of water

³⁸ http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/?page_id=1659

³⁹ <http://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/sites/default/files/gnwt-report-on-drinking-water-2010.pdf>

⁴⁰ <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>

supply systems, water sampling and monitoring programs, and appropriate abatement and enforcement measures. New water sources and treatment plants must receive health approval.⁴¹

3.5 Who ensures the accountability of government and water suppliers?

The Government of the Northwest Territories established an Inter-Departmental Drinking Water Management Committee. This Committee consists of senior management representatives from the four GNWT Departments that share the responsibility and accountability for safe drinking water.⁴² They include:

- Environment and Natural Resources (ENR);
- Public Works and Services (PWS);
- Health and Social Services (HSS) and the HSS Authorities;
- Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA).

3.6 Who is responsible for the assessment of public water supply systems? (Identify critical points within the treatment process for effective monitoring, control, and management including determining treatment efficiency in the removal or inactivation of harmful agents found in the source water.)

Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) and the HSS Authorities play a role in assessing public water supply systems. Environmental Health Officers perform inspections of and review the operation of water treatment plants as well as monitor that the required water-sampling program is in place. If there is a problem with the drinking water quality, or the systems designed to ensure the safety of the drinking water supply, appropriate abatement action is ordered by the health authorities.^{43,44}

A number of special initiatives are designed to ensure the safety of public water systems. These include detailed assessments of all public water systems, regulatory changes requiring certification of water treatment plant operators (currently voluntary), implementation of a Northwest Territories drinking water quality database, and increased staff and resources dedicated to drinking water programs.⁴⁵

3.7 Any approval process for newly built water treatment systems?

Public Works and Services (PWS)⁴⁶ and other government departments work together to provide safe drinking water and effective sewage systems in NWT communities. PWS provides support by:

- reviewing the design of government-managed water and sewage projects;
- carrying out inspections and operational reviews of water supply systems;
- undertaking pilot studies for evaluating potential water treatment process upgrades;
- updating and developing technical standards and guidelines;
- commissioning water and sewage systems;
- providing technical assistance during construction; and
- training water treatment plant operators.

3.8 Who is responsible for monitoring the water system? Any source water monitoring?

Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) monitors, regulates, and inspects water systems.

⁴¹ <http://www.water.ca/wkd-guide-drink-water-1.asp>

⁴² <http://www.pws.gov.nt.ca/pdf/WaterAndSanitation/WaterFramework.pdf>

⁴³ <http://www.water.ca/wkd-guide-drink-water-1.asp>

⁴⁴ <http://www.pws.gov.nt.ca/pdf/WaterAndSanitation/WaterFramework.pdf>

⁴⁵ <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/phi-isp/iii-b-eng.php>

⁴⁶ <http://www.pws.gov.nt.ca>

*Environment Canada*⁴⁷ (EC) plays a role in regulatory approaches and delivery of services. In relation to water, this approach includes:

- roles that involve monitoring water quality;
- investing in water research, developing regulations where warranted;
- supporting inter-jurisdictional water agreements, limited enforcement/permitting related to toxic and polluting substances;
- developing national policies and standards related to aquatic pollutants and water quality standards;
- reducing pollution at the source;
- promoting of ecosystem approaches;

EC's responsibilities for freshwaters are shared with federal departments and provincial and territorial governments. These include:

- collecting water quantity and quality data focused on National Parks and Reserves and the Mackenzie Valley in partnership with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories;
- operating the NWT Hydrometric Network which is administered and delivered by EC in conjunction with INAC;
- engaging in water planning through participation in multi-government initiatives (e.g., land use plans, NWT Protected Areas Strategy, environmental assessment processes, etc.);
- providing technical support where required to transboundary water agreement discussions on quality and flow allocation through the Mackenzie River Basin Board;
- enforcing water quality legislation such as the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations and future Wastewater Effluent Regulations (2014) under the *Fisheries Act*, Migratory Birds Regulations under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* including pollutant discharge into waters containing migratory bird populations and the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* including ocean disposal; and
- evaluating water quality protection measures for the environmental assessments of projects screened under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* and for the subsequent issuance of water licenses by the NWT Water Board.⁴⁸

Relevant Legislation:

- *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (Inuvialuit Settlement Region)
- *Migratory Birds Convention Act* – Section 5.1
- *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*
- Disposal at Sea Regulations
- *Canada Water Act*
- *Department of Environment Act*
- *Fisheries Act* – Section 36 (deleterious substances)
- Metal Mining Effluent Regulations
- Wastewater Effluent Regulations (proposed)
- Applicable land, resource and self-government agreements throughout the NWT

3.9 In case of adverse quality standards, who notifies whom (government, public, water supplier)?

If there is a problem with the drinking water quality, or the systems designed to ensure the safety of the drinking water supply, appropriate abatement action is ordered by the health authorities. Environmental health officers, the public, water suppliers, water boards, and environmental

⁴⁷ <http://www.ec.gc.ca>

⁴⁸ http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/_live/documents/content/NWT_Water_Stewardship_Strategy.pdf

monitoring boards (e.g., [Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board](#) for the Diavik Project) – all may help to identify adverse quality standards and inform Health and Social Services, GNWT.⁴⁹

4.0 Waste Management (part of source water protection as well)

5.0 Surveillance:

5.1 Any process in place to respond to health complaints?

Department of Health and Social Services employs Environmental Health Officers who can respond and investigate.

5.2 Any outbreak surveillance system in place?

Some source water quality testing is occurring. A centralized tracking and monitoring system for source water quality is being developed.

5.3 Any system in place to link outbreaks to source or system characteristics?

Department of Health and Social Services works to determine source of outbreaks, along with other Territorial Government Departments (ENR, PWS, MACA), communities, Water Boards, and the Federal Government.⁵⁰

5.4 Who is responsible for managing outbreaks?

In the Northwest Territories, all food and waterborne outbreaks are investigated by Environmental Health Officers appointed by the Chief Public Health Officer.

6.0 What is the Role of the Community in the Provision of Safe Drinking Water?

The community and NWT residents have a role in the provision of safe drinking water, along with governments, organizations, and boards. Public education is necessary to communicate to the public the importance of maintaining healthy practices, so they understand their own role and responsibility in making water safe. Such practices include conservation, the use of treated water, and proper tank cleaning.^{51,52}

One initiative under the Northern Voices, Northern Waters: the NWT Water Strategy is to support communities in becoming more involved in water stewardship and aquatic monitoring by developing community-based monitoring programs.^{53,54}

References/Notes

Northern Voices, Northern Waters. NWT Water Stewardship Strategy
http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/documents/content/NWT_Water_Stewardship_Strategy.pdf

⁴⁹ <http://www.water.ca/wkd-guide-drink-water-1.asp>

⁵⁰ <http://www.pws.gov.nt.ca/pdf/WaterAndSanitation/WaterFramework.pdf>

⁵¹ <http://www.pws.gov.nt.ca/pdf/WaterAndSanitation/WaterFramework.pdf>

⁵² <http://www.pws.gov.nt.ca/pdf/WaterAndSanitation/WaterFramework.pdf>

⁵³ <http://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/sites/default/files/gnwt-report-on-drinking-water-2010.pdf>

⁵⁴ http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/documents/content/NWT_Water_Stewardship_Strategy.pdf

Note that while the National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health has used its best efforts to ensure the accuracy and reliability of this information, it is provided as a general reference only. Please contact federal, provincial, municipal, and other agencies noted to verify information provided.

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