Ginoogaming First Nation (Band No. 185)

Date of Visit: March 29, 2001
By Gary Oja (OCWA)
Site Address: P.O. Box 89
Longlac, ON P0T 2A0
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Tribal Council Affiliation: Matawa First Nations Management Inc.
Operator: Calvin Taylor
Location: The Ginoogaming First Nation community is located approximately 40 km east of Geraldton
Population: 297 people in the community (November 2000 – INAC)
No. of Units: 64 houses in the community (CAIS)

1.0 Description of the Community Water Supply

Based on the CAIS report, water to the houses in the Ginoogaming community is treated as follows:

- 297 people use piped water
- 64 houses are serviced by a communal water system.

2.0 Description of the Community Sewage Facilities

Based on the CAIS report, sewage from the houses in the Ginoogaming community is treated as follows:

- 297 people use piped sewage
- 64 houses are serviced by a communal sewage system.

3.0 Overall Assessment for Communal Water Treatment Supply

The questionnaire developed by PWGSC required OCWA to undertake a risk assessment of the Water Source, Design, Operation, Reporting, and Operators. To properly assess these areas, a revisit to the water treatment facilities would be required.

OCWA was requested to undertake the evaluation without a visit to the site. With the available information, OCWA has undertaken the requested assessment of the facilities.

The ranking system used is as follows:

0 = Not enough information to assess
1-4 = Low Risk
5-7 = Medium Risk
8-10 = High Risk

For more detailed information on the Risk Assessment used see the Terms of Reference, Appendix B.

SECTION Water	SECTION RANKING Water	RISK Water
A. Water Source		
Biological	0	
Chemical	0	
Physical	0	
Overall Ranking for Water Source	0	No lab data available
B. Design		
Biological	0	No lab
Chemical	1	No exceedances
Physical	5	High dissolved organic carbon
Risk to Public Health	1	No boil water advisory
Condition of Laboratory Equipment	0	Not inspected
Overall Ranking for Design	3	
C. Operations		
Reservoir Cleanliness	0	
Emergency Plan	0	
Overall Ranking for Operations	4	No hydrant flushing or main valve maintenance
D. Reporting		
Ranking for Laboratories and Testing	0	No data
Ranking for Boil Water Advisories	1	No boil water advisory
Overall Ranking for Reporting	1	

SECTION Water	SECTION RANKING Water	RISK Water
E. Operators		
Overall Ranking for Operators	5	One operator with training and confidence, one operator with no training
F. Statistical Data		
Overall Ranking for Individual Wells	0	No data
Overall Ranking for the System	3	Low Risk

4.0 Overall Assessment for Communal Sewage Treatment Facilities

The questionnaire developed by PWGSC required OCWA to undertake a risk assessment of the Effluent Receiver, Design, Operation, Reporting, and Operators. To properly assess these areas, a revisit to the sewage treatment facility would be required.

OCWA was requested to undertake the evaluation without a visit to the site. With the available information, OCWA has undertaken the requested assessment of the facilities.

The ranking system used is as follows:

0 = Not enough information to assess
1-4 = Low Risk
5-7 = Medium Risk
8-10 = High Risk

For more detailed information on the Risk Assessment used see the Terms of Reference, Appendix B.

SECTION Sewage	SECTION RANKING Sewage	RISK Sewage
A. Effluent Receiver		
Overall Ranking for Effluent Receiver	0	No data available
B. Design		
Quality of Treated Effluent	0	
Ranking of Design of Sewage Plant	0	
Ranking of Concerns and Hazards within the Plant	8	Concerns about confined space entry
Condition of Laboratory Equipment	0	
Overall Ranking for Design	8	Check valves and by-pass valves not working properly
C. Operations		
Ranking for Emergency Plan	0	
Overall Ranking for Operations	7	No maintenance manuals or emergency parts
D. Reporting		
Overall Ranking for Reporting	8	Backups and basement flooding
E. Operators		
Overall Ranking for Operators	4	Some training and confidence
F. Statistical Data		
Overall Ranking for Individual Septic Tanks	0	
Overall Ranking for the Systems	8	High Risk

5.0 Communal Water Treatment Supply (64 houses)

5.1 Water Source

No information was available regarding the raw water source.

5.2 Design

The Ginoogaming community is supplied with water from the Longlac Water Treatment Plant, which is operated by the Ontario Clean Water Agency. The band is responsible for the water distribution system only.

The following table summarizes the treated water data available from Health Canada, which does not meet GCDWQ:

Date	Location	Exceedances	Result	GCDWQ limit
Apr. 10, 2001	Distribution System	Dissolved Organic Carbon	12.0 mg/L	5.0 mg/L (AO)

AO = aesthetic objective

There is no office/filing area and the workshop area should be larger and needs to be heated. Some tools, such as valve keys and extensions, are required.

5.3 Operation

As-built drawings are readily available. There is an annual hydrant-flushing program, but no maintenance program or main valve operating and maintenance program.

Emergency spare parts are readily available, as well as a contact listing of technicians/trades people. The response time for these personnel is as required.

5.4 Reporting

No boil water advisories have been issued and chemical analyses have shown no exceedances.
No bacteriological data was available from Health Canada.

5.5 Operator

Calvin Taylor is the operator of both the sewage collection and water distribution systems. Clarence Charles is the back up operator for the water distribution system, and Clarence Thomas is the back up operator for the sewage collection system. s.19(1)

6.0 Deficiencies in the Communal Water Supply

1. The operator indicated a need for a better workshop area and tools.

2. The operator indicated that there is a leak on the main line and that a pressure problem exists at one hydrant.

3. Examination of the system was conducted by R. J. Burnside; however, the recommendations in the report sent to INAC were not approved for funding.

7.0 Communal Sewage Treatment Facilities (64 houses)

7.1 Effluent Receiver

No information was available regarding the effluent receiver.

7.2 Design

The band is responsible for the sewage collection system, which includes two sewage-pumping stations. The community sewage is treated at the Longlac Water Pollution Control Plant, which is operated by the Ontario Clean Water Agency. The collection system has two sewage pumping stations.

There is insufficient safety equipment on site. Obtain confined space equipment for manholes and lift stations. Another safety hazard is that the lift station bypass valves are not operable.

There is not enough room for office/filing and the operator indicated that he often uses his own tools to perform maintenance jobs because of the lack of tools available. Also, an electrical tester is required. As-built drawings are available on site.

7.3 Operation

The check valves at both lift stations are not operating properly. This is a re-occurring operational problem.

Sewage pumping station wet wells are cleaned twice a year, but the sewage pumping station pumps are not routinely maintained. Emergency spare parts are not readily available on site, however there is a contact listing of technicians/trades people. The response time for these personnel is as required.

Sewage bypasses have occurred at both lift stations due to the pump plugging and the check valves not operating properly. In addition, pumps sometimes need to be reset following power interruptions.

7.4 Reporting

There have been sewage collection back ups that have flooded basements. Gravel and sticks plugged the manholes and lines, causing the back ups.

7.5 Operators

Calvin Taylor is the operator of both the sewage collection and water distribution systems. Clarence Charles is the back up operator for the water distribution system, and Clarence Thomas is the back up operator for the sewage collection system. **s.19(1)**

8.0 Deficiencies in the Communal Sewage Treatment Facilities

1. The valves for the bypasses are not operable.

2. At the time of the inspection, the check valves, hour meters, controls and the chart recorder were not operating at the lift stations.

3. The air relief chamber has not been operating properly since last August.

4. Further development is expected in the vicinity of lift station No.2.

5. The operator indicated a need for a better workshop area and tools.

6. Burnside conducted an examination of the system; however, the recommendations in the report sent to INAC were not approved for funding.

7. Calvin Taylor indicated that there is an ongoing problem with clogging in lines and at manholes from sticks and infiltration. Backups and basement flooding has occurred.

8. There is no confined space equipment available.

9.0 Recommendations

- Address basement flooding and bypasses.
- Institute an annual main valve operating and maintenance program.
- Implement a training program that can lead to certification of the operators.
- Correct the leak and pressure problem on the water main.
- Allocate Office/filing space for the maintenance of records.
- Develop a contingency plan in case of emergencies for the complete system.
- Institute an annual manhole inspection program.
- Repair the check valves, hour meters; controls chart recorder and bypass valves at the lift stations.
- Repair the air relief chamber.
- Purchase the required tools for maintenance.

10.0 Plant Classification

Based upon the Terms of Reference – Appendix I – Plant Classification Guideline developed by Public Works and Government Services Canada and with discussions with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment Classification Group, OCWA classified these plants as follows:

Water Treatment Facility - N/A (Water supplied by Longlac WTP operated by OCWA. Band responsible for distribution system)

Sewage Treatment Facility - N/A (Water supplied by Longlac WTP operated by OCWA. Band responsible for collection system)

11.0 Overall Community Risk Assessment

Water Category - Low Risk

Sewage Category - High Risk

- **High Risk because of the following:**
  - Repair the check valves and bypass valves at the lift stations;
  - Address bypassing at both pumping stations; and
  - Address basement flooding.

Note: Information within this report is based on discussions with the plant operator and a quick visual walkthrough of the facilities. No detailed review was undertaken by OCWA.