

## Muskrat Dam Nation (Band No. 213)

**Date of Visit:** No visit – refused to participation in this study

**Site Address:** via Pickel Lake, ON P0V 3B0

**Phone No.:** 807 471-2573      **Fax No.:** 807 471-2540

**Tribal Council Affiliation:** Independent First Nations Alliance

**Operator:**

**Location:** The Muskrat Dam First Nations community is located approximately 370 km north of Sioux Lookout and is accessible by air

**Population:** 281 people in the community (November 2000 – INAC)

**No. of Units:** 95 houses in the community (CAIS)

### 1.0 Description of the Community Water Supply

Based on the CAIS report water to the houses in the Muskrat Dam community is treated as follows:

- 118 people use piped water
- 110 people use holding tanks with trucked water
- 53 people were not identified in the CAIS
  
- 40 houses are serviced by a communal water system;
- 37 houses are serviced by holding tanks with trucked water; and
- 18 houses were not identified in the CAIS.

### 2.0 Description of the Community Sewage Facilities

Based on the information supplied to OCWA, sewage from the houses in the Muskrat Dam community is treated as follows:

- 118 people use piped sewage
- 110 people use holding tanks with trucked sewage
- 53 people were not identified in the CAIS
  
- 40 houses are serviced by a sewage communal system;
- 37 houses are serviced by sewage holding tanks and trucked sewage to a lagoon; and
- 18 houses are not identified in the CAIS.

### Reason for No Visit

The OCWA representative tried several times to arrange a visit. Mr. Mel Barber, Technical Advisor, informed OCWA that the Muskrat Dam First Nation community would not participate in this study.

### 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 visit 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.

<b>SECTION Water</b>	<b>SECTION RANKING Water</b>	<b>RISK Water</b>
<b>A. Water Source</b>		
Biological	0	No lab results
Chemical	0	No lab results
Physical	0	No lab results
Overall Ranking for Water Source	0	
<b>B. Design</b>		
Biological	0	No lab
Chemical	8	Turbidity, aluminum exceedances
Physical	6	Total organic carbon, hardness exceedances
Risk to Public Health	9	Turbidity exceedance, boil water advisory
Condition of Laboratory Equipment	0	Not inspected
Overall Ranking for Design	8	
<b>C. Operations</b>		
Reservoir Cleanliness	0	Not inspected
Emergency Plan	0	No data
Overall Ranking for Operations	0	No data
<b>D. Reporting</b>		
Ranking for Laboratories and Testing	0	No data
Ranking for Boil Water Advisories	8	Intake pumps down
Overall Ranking for Reporting	8	

<b>SECTION Water</b>	<b>SECTION RANKING Water</b>	<b>RISK Water</b>
<b>E. Operators</b>		
Overall Ranking for Operators	0	No data
<b>F. Statistical Data</b>		
Overall Ranking for Individual Wells	0	No data
Overall Ranking for the System	8	High Risk

#### 4.0 Communal Water Treatment Supply (40 houses)

##### 4.1 Water Source

No information was available because the community refused to participate in the study.

##### 4.2 Design

No information was available because the community refused to participate in the study.

Three treated water samples were available from Health Canada in Sioux Lookout:

Sample Date	Sample Received	Location	Exceedances	Result	GCDWQ limit	Notes
Dec. 5, 2000	Dec. 7, 2000	Apartment	Total Organic Carbon	5.2 mg/L	5.0 mg/L (AO)	The sample was expired for turbidity and pH upon receipt
			Aluminum	0.61 mg/L	0.10 mg/L (OG)	
			Hardness	70 mg/L	80 to 100 mg/L (OG)	
May 15, 2001	May 17, 2001	Water Plant	Turbidity	1.2 NTU	1.0 NTU	Results were not available for sulphide
			Aluminum	0.68 mg/L	0.10 mg/L (OG)	
			Hardness	38 mg/L	80 to 100 mg/L (OG)	
May 15, 2001	May 17, 2001	Treatment Center	Hardness	26 mg/L	80 to 100 mg/L (OG)	Results were not available for sulphide

AO = aesthetic objective, OG = operational guideline, HL = health limit

##### 4.3 Operations

No information was available because the community refused to participate in the study.

In a letter dated June 7, 2001 from Health Canada, it was reported that the water treatment plant was not producing water because the intake pumps were failing. The problem was believed to have been caused by a break or breaks in the distribution water line, causing a great loss of water. This is forcing the water plant and all related pumps and equipment to work non-stop in an effort to maintain water levels in the reservoirs. The extra workload on the pumps has caused the intake pumps to fail which resulted in no fresh water being produced and the system being shut down.

In a letter dated June 12, 2001 from Health Canada, it was noted that the filters in the plant are not being backwashed and that there is no guarantee that the water being produced is safe to drink and the boil water advisory should remain in place.

In a letter dated July 12, 2001 from Health Canada, it was noted that the water treatment plant was operating properly but it is not recommended for the community to remove the boil water advisory until chlorine levels in all areas of the distribution system are maintained within guidelines.

#### 4.4 Reporting

No information was available because the community refused to participate in the study.

Health Canada has issued a boil water advisory on October 20, 2001 because the plant intake pumps went down, affecting the chemical balance and the levels of chlorine throughout the system. Remedial measures required are to repair/replace pumps, balance chemicals and return chlorine to proper levels. The projected duration is November 2001.

#### 4.5 Operators

No information was available because the community refused to participate in the study.