



## IDENTIFICATION

Department	Position Title	
Environment and Climate Change	Manager, Water Regulatory	
Position Number	Community	Division/Region
23-14283	Yellowknife	Regulatory and Permitting/ HQ

## PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

The Manager, Water Regulatory (Manager) leads the section responsible for the evaluation of water license applications and resource development proposals for compliance with legislation and regulations such as *Waters Act and Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. The Manager provides professional expertise, guidance and consulting services to proponents, other Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) departments and the federal government, First Nations, Aboriginal governments, and other stakeholders on technical, engineering and policy issues related to water management in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The position prepares technical papers to provide stakeholders with the results of additional research/study of project-related influences on water management according to specific developmental components or environmental assessment in the NWT.

## SCOPE

Located in Yellowknife and reporting to the Director, Regulatory and Permitting (Director), the Manager, Water Regulatory manages the regulatory screening of water license applications through formal consultation processes with the Land and Water Boards and other stakeholders and recommends the need for action including:

- Additional screening, exemptions, etc.
- Identifies the need for regulatory changes.
- Develops guidelines and policy amendments for review by the Director and senior staff.

The Manager identifies inter-jurisdictional issues with potential impact on existing legislation and water-related policy areas such as sustainable/renewal development and trans-boundary effects. The Manager has a role in maintaining the departmental spill



response program including the NWT Spills Agreement and representing the department on the spill response committee, as required.

The Manager is responsible for the oversight of tracking security deposits for licensing and reporting on their disposition. The work involves participating in the environmental assessment (EA) process for water license applications and mining/resource development projects proposed by industry, under a range of federal and territorial legislation including *Waters Act*, *Impact Assessment Act* *Fisheries Act*, *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, and providing formal recommendations to governments and resource management boards.

The screening of water licenses and development proposals involves the detailed assessment of potential impacts of all industry project phases from inception to commissioning and decommissioning, and affects the planning and implementation of mining, oil and gas exploration and development in the Territory. This position will review and make the final decision on what technical advice is suitable to be released to clients with respect to level of scientific rigor, appropriateness of technical advice, etc.

The incumbent provides a senior level of professional and technical expertise to senior management, industry, other federal and territorial government departments, First Nations, and communities with respect to:

- the screening of development proposals;
- the conduct of comprehensive studies;
- the assessment of potential threats and recommended mitigation measures;
- identifying further engineering, hydrological or environmental studies.

The incumbent manages staff input into the environmental assessment process. At each stage of the EA process, the incumbent approves detailed scientific information for project proponents (or their consultants), for federal and territorial agencies, and the public. In addition, the incumbent represents the department through participation in public review panels and forums established under the appropriate legislation.

On an-ongoing basis, the work involves providing authoritative advice on broad resource management and related environmental issues to departmental managers, industry, First Nations and community groups. In addition, the incumbent provides technical advice as the department's representative on panels, working groups and committees.

The Manager is responsible for managing the section budget and ensuring proper spending. The work involves scheduling, organizing, directing and monitoring project teams, ensuring that financial and human resources are managed appropriately, and contributing to budget and operational planning exercises.



## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **1. Manages the work of the Water Regulatory Section.**

- Delegates the lead for each regulatory project or other client requests within the Water Regulatory Section.
- Implements and leads a system of delegation and communication within the section such that all members are aware of and have input to work done by others in the section
- Ensures that the people with all the right expertise have added anything they can, to ensure consistency of responses to clients, and to ensure that, should one of the project leads are unavailable, another can perform necessary duties
- Ensures that the work is completed on time and with the correct level of scientific expertise.
- Leads the interactions of Regulatory and Science Advisors with other division representatives including Conservation, Assessment & Monitoring Environment Division to ensure that scientific/technical comments represent the consensus view of all relevant divisions.
- Leads, supervises and coordinates the work of the section, and identifies the need for external expert review or evaluates recommendations for such, as necessary.
- Manages the budget for the entire section including participation in monthly variance reports and reports results to Director.
- Ensures consistency in the responses to clients in terms of level of detail, effort, tact, thoroughness, and format.
- Implements and ensures compliance with document and file management systems.

### **2. Manages the regulatory screening of water license applications and resources development proposals**

- Analyzes applications to determine whether they meet regulatory criteria and sound environmental practices, and to determine the type of environmental assessment indicated. Analysis includes the review of the size, scope, scale and location of the proposed project or activity, the nature of the construction or installation involved, proximity to water bodies, the presence and nature of hazardous substances, the potential for adverse effects from malfunctions or accidents, and the significance (immediate and cumulative) of such effects. This involves searching and evaluating complex environmental, scientific, technical and engineering information in the project proposals, identifying the class of project, and determining the type of assessment required.
- Reviews and provides recommendations on project descriptions and water use license applications for a range of mining, oil, gas, exploration and development projects. This involves interpreting, analyzing, presenting, and applying often complex legislation and making resource management decisions throughout the regulatory process. The



incumbent must continually monitor technical and professional developments in the field, research scientific reference material and apply established engineering techniques in evaluating water use projects.

- Manages project-specific security deposit estimates and ensures accurate tracking of security deposit requirements for water licenses, ensuring that the departmental security deposit policy is followed in a timely and responsible manner.
- Designs, implements and ensures the organization and maintenance of databases relevant to water licensing.

**3. Provides expert advice and recommendations, evaluates the need for the development or amendments of policies, guidelines or codes of practices and the need of research/ study.**

- Provides a senior level of professional advice and consulting expertise to industry and Land and Water Boards at all phases of mining, oil and gas or other development projects.
- Provides a technical and policy challenge role in the review of proponents' reports and submissions.
- Represents the department on Board-established technical committees or working groups for major projects/developments.
- Briefs senior management on water related issues pertaining to resource developments in the NWT and makes recommendations to the senior management on Ministerial decisions pertaining to water.
- Provides authoritative scientific input to the development of legislation, regulation, and adaptive environmental policies and procedures for various undertakings under existing regulatory frameworks, and to provide technical input to policy development in a complex and highly sensitive multijurisdictional environment.
- Monitors water resource issues and recommends the actions required for the development and/or revision of policy, guidelines, and legislation governing water protection. Leads the development of required policy and guidelines.
- Oversees the design and implementation of multi-disciplinary scientific and technical assessments to screen development proposals in order to identify direct/indirect impacts, cumulative effects and mitigating measures.
- Leads additional research/study to address project-specific issues, developmental components, or influences affecting water management and/or environmental assessment in the NWT.
- Evaluates the need for larger, non-project initiatives such as the development of guidelines or codes of practice for proponents and other clients.
- Assesses and identifies needs for new policies or changes to existing policies, and/or possible changes to relevant legislation.
- Identifies needs for technical workshops, community information meetings and/or intergovernmental technical working groups.



- Prepare extensive detailed technical reports ensuring that the information contained therein represents the Department's mandate and reflects the legislation under which the recommendations are made.

**4. Manages the departmental spill response program; as needed, acts as departmental representative on the inter-agency/inter-governmental spill response committee.**

**5. Public education and awareness**

- Ensures information and education about water license requirements, research programs, and other environmental initiatives to the public and other government agencies via written correspondence, technical sessions, and public presentations.
- Maintains awareness of Crown consultant requirements to First Nations people when reviewing proposed developments, when monitoring and enforcing compliance and during consultation with non-government organizations on northern development, resource management and environmental protection issues.

## **WORKING CONDITIONS**

### **Physical Demands**

No unusual demands.

### **Environmental Conditions**

No unusual demands.

### **Sensory Demands**

No unusual demands.

### **Mental Demands**

Exposure to hostile clients is stressful. Some situations may involve direct physical threats and/or verbal abuse which may require extensive counseling and result in permanent health problems. This exposure may occur during site visits, public hearings and meetings and may be of several hours' duration.

## **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES**

- Understanding of the engineering and physical sciences affecting water resources, and the application of knowledge in a range of physical science disciplines including hydrology, geology, biochemistry, and knowledge of the theories and practices of mining, milling and metallurgy, in order to assess development proposals and license applications for their environmental impact and regulatory compliance.



- Knowledge of methods of physical-chemical properties analysis, scientific information and data analysis and interpretation, environmental compliance assessment, risk assessment, qualitative and quantitative analysis and research report interpretation order to write authoritative reports on environmental assessment, project evaluation, compliance advice or recommendations with respect to regulatory environmental compliance.
- Knowledge of a complex legislative framework including: the Northwest Territories Waters Act and Regulations, Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act, Canadian Environmental Protection Act, Territorial Lands Act and Regulations, Fisheries Act, Northwest Territories Environmental Protection Act, Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, and the Northwest Territories Public Health Act to monitor compliance, provide technical support and to provide explanation/interpretation to clients, and to participate in review panels under these mechanisms.
- Knowledge of the theories and practices of natural resource management to ensure the responsible use of water, to provide for administration of water licenses and to provide sound advice to the Northwest Territories Water Board and other land and water boards, including environmental auditing, sampling, testing and analyzing water samples;
- Knowledge of the theories, principles, methods and practices of reclamation and compensation to provide direction and ensure compliance with the NWT Waters Act.
- Knowledge of environmental engineering related to municipal water treatment, distribution and solid/liquid waste disposal including:
- Geo-technical and dam safety engineering theory and practices.
- Theories, principles and best practices of civil engineering, mathematics and surveying to evaluate construction and "as-builts" of earthworks such as dams and channels (compaction and water sheds, habitat).
- Capabilities of heavy equipment, as well as the impact and types of defects that could occur on earthwork structures at mine sites.
- The work requires knowledge of arctic safety and survival, map reading and orientation in isolated mountain terrain and locations, first aid, radio use, aircraft safety (helicopter and fixed wing), handling, care and use of firearms and basic mechanical repairs to equipment needed to survive while conducting site visits in isolated areas.
- The work requires the ability to present information at public and private forums and to participate in scientific discussions with other parties at various working group meetings and technical sessions.
- Requires the ability to manage financial and human resources of the section. The incumbent will be responsible for the direct supervision of scientific staff, including training. Requires knowledge of staffing process with the government and the ability to delegate and ensure that multiple projects are being managed effectively.
- An ability to see the big picture to be able to recommend larger non-project initiatives designed to improve the regulatory system in the NWT.



- Ability to commit to actively upholding and consistently practicing personal diversity, inclusion and cultural awareness, as well as safety and sensitivity approaches in the workplace.

**Typically, the above qualifications would be attained by:**

A master's degree in geography, environmental or resource management, or interdisciplinary environmental sciences and at least five (5) years' experience in environmental management, planning and/or program delivery, preferably in an NWT setting with both government and private industry. One year of supervisory experience is required.

Equivalent combinations of education and experience will be considered.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

**Position Security** (check one)

- No criminal records check required
- Position of Trust – criminal records check required
- Highly sensitive position – requires verification of identity and a criminal records check

**French Language** (check one if applicable)

- French required (must identify required level below)  
Level required for this Designated Position is:  
ORAL EXPRESSION AND COMPREHENSION  
Basic (B)  Intermediate (I)  Advanced (A)   
READING COMPREHENSION:  
Basic (B)  Intermediate (I)  Advanced (A)   
WRITING SKILLS:  
Basic (B)  Intermediate (I)  Advanced (A)
- French preferred

**Indigenous Language:** Select Language

- Required
- Preferred