

**ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STATUS UPDATE
REPORT TO THE EVALUATION, PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE - AS OF MARCH 31, 2009**

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS – COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE			
SUMMATIVE EVALUATION OF THE FIRST NATIONS WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (200613) AEC APPROVAL DATE: 19/12/2007			
PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION PLAN	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	PROGRAM RESPONSE
<p>2. Monitoring and reporting practices should be enhanced to ensure that the First Nations and INAC have reliable information about drinking-water and wastewater systems in First Nations communities. In particular, INAC should:</p> <p>a) ensure that all funded systems undergo complete annual on-site inspections according to the "Guide for Annual Inspections of First Nations Drinking Water Systems" in the Protocol for Safe Drinking Water in First Nations Communities;</p>	<p>a) The Protocol for Safe Drinking Water in First Nations Communities requires annual inspections of water systems by a qualified person from outside the operating First Nations. INAC will continue to provide funding for these annual inspections and ensure that they are completed. INAC will improve the inspection process, automating the data collection by creating an inspection form that can be automatically uploaded into the Integrated Capital Management System (ICMS) database. ICMS is web-accessible, which will make it easier for inspectors to upload the information directly into a central INAC database and for First Nations to access the resulting information. Additionally, by centralizing all the data, it will be easier for headquarters to monitor compliance and ensure that the inspection requirements have been met by the regional offices.</p>	<p>01/04/2008</p>	<p>Status: Implemented</p> <p>Update/Rationale: As of 31/03/2009:</p> <p>Complete - INAC continues to provide funding and monitor completion of annual inspections as required by the Protocol for Safe Drinking Water in First Nations Communities.</p> <p>Complete – The Integrated Capital Management System (ICMS) is fully functional with respect to tracking water and wastewater system inspections.</p> <p>AES COMMENT: Need to demonstrate that this protocol has improved/enhanced Monitoring and reporting practices.</p>

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<p>b) report more clearly on the extent to which systems meet established design, construction and water-quality standards; and</p>	<p>b) With the introduction in 2006 of the Protocol, INAC introduced clear, measurable standards for design, construction, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of drinking water systems. INAC is developing a wastewater systems protocol. This is being reviewed with stakeholders and INAC plans to introduce the new wastewater protocol April 1, 2008. It would be added to funding agreement requirements beginning in fiscal year 2009/10. A key performance indicator on compliance with the drinking water/wastewater protocol will be added to ICMS to ensure that compliance is measured and tracked. INAC will report annually to Parliament on the water and wastewater situation in First Nations communities and will include reporting on compliance with the standards of the Protocol.</p>	<p>01/04/2008 and 01/04/2009</p>	<p>Update/Rationale: As of 31/03/2009</p> <p>The INAC Drinking Water Protocol for First Nations Communities refers to design and construction guidelines. Asset Condition Inspections, which occur every 3 years, report on the physical condition of the water plant. In addition, annual performance inspections are also required with respect to the quality of the water and the performance of the operator. All of these inspections results are stored within the Integrated Capital Management System (ICMS). INAC has recently changed its Key Performance Indicators on water to also indicate how many systems are now meeting the Drinking Water Protocols.</p> <p>AES COMMENT: Ongoing – Annual reports submitted.</p>
<p>c) collect data that support basic cost-effectiveness measurement, e.g., cost per connection and cost per person served for capital expenditures and for operations and maintenance</p>	<p>c) INAC will ensure that feasibility studies for new systems, reviewed by HQ, assess the cost per connection and determine the most suitable cost-effective option, including consideration of individual systems. Through the new Integrated Capital Management System (ICMS) water database, INAC will track the costs of system</p>	<p>31/03/2009</p>	<p>Complete. INAC has been reporting annually to Parliament on the water and wastewater situation in First Nations communities.</p> <p>AES COMMENT: Cost per connection not captured in ICMS.</p>

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	<p>construction, upgrade, operations and maintenance funding provided, number of connections and people served by the system. In the context of the department's Smart Reporting Initiative, INAC intends to work with First Nations communities to improve broadband connectivity to enable reporting through ICMS to reduce the reporting burden.</p>		
<p>3) INAC should</p> <p>a) revise its funding agreements with First Nations to ensure that funds awarded for operation and maintenance are used for that purpose; and</p>	<p>a) INAC will explore options to ensure that funding agreements with First Nations allow for an assessment of water and wastewater Operation and Maintenance funding in the year-end financial audit. Measures to assist First Nations communities in addressing any deficiencies in compliance will be developed in collaboration with Audit and Assurance Services Branch.</p>	<p>Options for improved Operation and Maintenance tracking and accountability will be explored and implementation of initial measures will begin April 1, 2008</p>	<p>Status: Pending Implementation</p> <p>Update/Rationale: As of 31/03/2009:</p> <p>a) Community Infrastructure Branch is working with CFO Sector to understand how the Transfer Payment Policy affects funding authorities and First Nation funding agreements that currently provide flexibility in funding minor capital and operations & maintenance expenditures in order to consideration to providing future funding on a more 'targeted' basis.</p>

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b) Take measures to ensure that the Maintenance Management Plans and Emergency Response Plans required under the Protocol are in place.	b) The <i>Protocol for Safe Drinking Water in First Nations Communities</i> requires Maintenance Management Plans and Emergency Response Plans be implemented. Compliance with the Protocol is part of INAC's funding agreements with First Nations communities. As part of INAC's commitment to measure compliance with the Protocol, implementation of these plans will be tracked and measures will be taken to address any shortfalls.	Compliance measures will be developed for implementation as of 01/04/2010. Steps to ensure compliance with the Protocol will continue on an ongoing basis.	b) Complete. Implementation of plans is being tracked through Asset Condition Reporting System and Integrated Capital Management System.
4) INAC must significantly improve operator training and certification by substantially upgrading the Circuit Rider Training Program or by implementing a superior alternative.	INAC will expand the Circuit Rider Training Program to allow all regions to hire more (CRTP) circuit riders, to improve remuneration and working conditions for circuit riders, to expand the role of circuit riders in mentoring and assisting system operators, and to offer these expanded CRTP services to all First Nations communities, to take effect April 1, 2008. Additional funding would also be directed to training operators for certification exams.	Implementation will begin 01/04/2008	Status: Pending Implementation Update/Rationale: As of 31/03/2009: The CRTP had 40 trainers in 2007. There are currently 54 CRTs providing operation and maintenance support to First Nations water operators. Since January 2008, 14 additional CRTs have been hired and the intent is to double the original 40 positions by the end of 2010.
5) The Department must address gaps in program design with a view to providing support for alternative cost-effective solutions such as wells and septic tanks.	A detailed engineering assessment of the water and wastewater systems in every	Policy on small systems and	Status: Pending Implementation Update/Rationale: As of 31/03/2009: Procurement of contractor for the National Assessment is nearing completion, and work is

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	<p>First Nations community, to be conducted over an 18 month period, will identify the needs of each community and provide a reliable basis for decisions on future investments.</p> <p>A Protocol to establish standards for wells, septic systems, cisterns and other small system elements is being prepared. The preliminary protocol will be implemented beginning April 1, 2008 and will be finalised by September 30, 2008.</p> <p>INAC will work with Health Canada and other federal partners and with First Nations communities to implement the policy on funding the most cost-effective systems appropriate to community needs and to implement the new protocol on small systems.</p>	<p>protocol developed 30/09/2008</p> <p>Engineering assessment complete by 30/09/2009</p> <p>Implementation of the policy for small systems will be phased in beginning 01/04/2008</p>	<p>expected to begin in the Spring of 2009. The assessment project will be completed in Fall 2010.</p> <p>Decentralised On-Site Systems Protocol has been drafted and is being reviewed; implementation is planned for Summer 2009.</p>
<p>6) Future policy development should consider the implementation of a regulatory framework that would separate INAC's roles as funding agency and de facto regulator. The option of having a separate federal department/agency or the provinces/territories or other entity (such as a First Nations organization/institution or aggregation), other than INAC, to enforce regulations for water</p>	<p>INAC will develop a proposal for a regulatory framework in accordance with the Government of Canada's commitment in Budget 2007 to introduce an accountable, transparent and enforceable regulatory regime, for safe drinking water on reserve, comparable to off-reserve communities.</p>	<p>Consultations on legislation will take place in 2008.</p>	<p>Status: Pending Implementation</p> <p>Update/Rationale: As of 31/03/2009:</p> <p>Engagement sessions with First Nations across Canada completed. Impact analyses by Regional First Nation Organizations in progress. Report to the Minister is scheduled for April 2009.</p>

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and wastewater on-reserve should be explored.			