

Tabled Document

Additional Information for Written Question 16-20(1)

In response to Written Question WQ16-20(1) asked by the Member for Frame Lake on March 13, 2025, this document further outlines the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) process and details regarding environmental liabilities inventory and securities held by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

How the GNWT Reports Environmental Liabilities

The GNWT follows Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards issued by the Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (PSAB). PSAB issued Directive PS 3260, "liability for contaminated sites", effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2014.

The Canadian public sector accounting standard for environmental liabilities requires the following conditions be met before recording a liability:

- An environmental standard exists (this can be a law, a regulation a bylaw, an order by an authority, a contract or an agreement).
- A contamination exceeds the environmental standard
- The government is directly responsible (such as owning/controlling the land), or accepts responsibility
- The site is non-operating or is a high-risk operating site
- It is expected that there will be a future cost
- A reasonable estimate of that cost can be made

An inventory of GNWT sites with environmental liabilities is updated each year. The liability amount is determined based on that listing and estimate at March 31 of the applicable year. The liability goes up when new sites are added or cost estimates increase, the liability goes down when sites are either removed from the list and/or sites are remediated.

Summary of data from section ii: non-consolidated financial statements from the Public Accounts for the last 10 years is presented in the table below (amounts in \$'000).

ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITIES							
Year	Opening liability	Transfer to liabilities for SL & SWS	Change in estimate	New sites	Annual Expense	Remediation expenditures (cash out flow)	Closing liability
	000	000	000	000	000	000	000
2024	50,089		31,104	-	31,104	(6,061)	75,132
2023	71,658	(4,170)	1,782	220	2,002	(19,401)	50,089
2022	51,295		2,585	20,643	23,228	(2,865)	71,658
2021	49,204		3,916	30	3,946	(1,855)	51,295
2020	47,986		3,818	700	4,518	(3,300)	49,204
2019	50,595		547	875	1,422	(4,031)	47,986
2018	53,695		(1,406)	1,774	368	(3,468)	50,595
2017	47,843		2,601	7,000	9,601	(3,749)	53,695
2016	50,041		(850)	850	-	(2,198)	47,843
2015	27,327		14,370	10,967	25,337	(2,623)	50,041
		(4,170)	58,467	43,059	101,526	(49,551)	

*SL: sewage lagoons

*SLW: solid waste sites (landfills)

Online Database

The GNWT publishes through an online searchable database the contaminated sites as reported in the Public Accounts as at March 31 of each year end. The database can be accessed on the GNWT website at the following link:

<https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/services/contaminated-sites>

Estimates For Each Site.

The Public Accounts publish the information and the amounts at an aggregated level and does not disclose site specific amounts as this could interfere with future procurement processes to remediate these sites.

Of the inventory of projects, historically some may have had leases, land use permits or water licenses. Of the list of sites, as of March 31, 2024 only one site had permits with a reclamation security required. The total security held for that site was \$2.9 million.