



Potable Water Storage

Kuujuuaq, Northern Quebec

Bolted steel tanks lend themselves well to remote area installation. The actual erection process of a bolted steel tank is very independent from the actual location of the project. The great benefit of the bolted tank is that it comes in a kit form, well packed for transportation to remote areas, and it is factory coated with high quality control. Factory quality control of the coating process ensures that environmental conditions do not affect the finished product and there are minimal site delays due to atmospheric conditions. The minimal use of concrete lends itself well to most remote locations as well as often times concrete plants are not readily at hand.

Availability of concrete, forming arrangements, and local labour play a major factor in making bolted steel tanks attractive in remote areas. Compared to concrete tanks and other tank styles, field erected bolted steel tanks are the more environmentally-friendly option as they do not require large excavation nor use of construction aggregate or material that may be difficult to find locally.

Field erected tanks are one of the fastest types of tanks to erect short of being able to install a pre-fabricated tank. A tank like this,

which was 39 feet in diameter by 30 feet tall, took less than 15 days to erect. In areas where the window for construction is short, this can be a major determining factor.

In the case of this project, the primary contractor was FCNQ Construction and it has extensive knowledge and experience in northern communities – the pressure it applied and the efforts they put forward to get shipments to boats on time was short of miraculous. All this work was to get the tank kit and tools to site before the shipping lanes closed for the season and so that there didn't have to be a wait until next spring for shipping lanes to open again and delay the project beyond its expected completion deadline. Originally, the project was tendered in December, with plans to meet the summer shipping lanes so the tank could be erected late summer, but with delays, the tank and the tools required only just made the last available boat of the season.

When bidding these projects, it is almost impossible to eliminate all risks. A strong contractor that knows the obstacles and



understands that these projects are a partnership will go a long way for unaccounted delays and the fact that tools/specialty jacks are out of commission for almost a year.

Once on-site, we have always found the more remote the area, the more helpful the primary contractor and local support is. Do as much homework as possible, work with the best equipped primary contractor, but as a final word of advice, expect the unexpected. Remote northern work can be a rewarding experience and we would not shy away from similar projects in the future. 💧

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