

# JOINT INTERPRETATION BULLETIN

## Jurisdiction of Wastewater Treatment Systems at Work Camps on Crown Land Leases

### Legislation:

Safety Codes Act, Private Sewage Disposal Regulation AR 229/97  
Environmental Protection Act, Activities Designation Regulation AR 276/203

The estimated peak volume of wastewater per day generated by work camps located on crown land leases is used to determine whether the Alberta Environmental Protection Act applies or if the Safety Codes Act and Private Sewage Disposal Regulation applies.

If the peak flow is less than or equal to 25 cubic meters per day (work camp serving 110 or less person), the system falls under the Safety Codes Act and the Private Sewage Disposal Regulation that is administered by Municipal Affairs and accredited municipalities. A sewage treatment system under Municipal Affairs Private Sewage Regulations must not discharge treated effluent directly to surface waters or allow the effluent to reach surface waters. The design must be such that the effluent is absorbed into the soil.

If the estimated peak volume of wastewater per day exceeds 25 cubic meters per day (work camp serving more than 110 person), it falls under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Activities Designation Regulation.

Effluent discharge to lands adjacent to the lease is not considered "off site". So, off lease discharge of effluent to adjacent lands approved for that use by SRD does not cause the system to fall under Alberta Environment's jurisdiction.

Any wastewater system that discharges treated effluent directly, or indirectly, to surface waters falls under the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act regardless of peak daily volume.

All systems, whether they fall under Municipal Affairs jurisdiction or Alberta Environment's jurisdiction, must meet standards and guidelines and policies established by the respective department.

Approval from Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) is required before using any crown lands for the management or disposal of wastewater at work camps. Private Sewage Permits that are administered by Municipal Affairs and accredited municipalities or Approval for construction and operation of wastewater system issued by Alberta Environment does not replace the need to obtain approval from SRD for using the crown land. SRD approval must be in place prior to any construction of a camp or wastewater treatment system located on crown land.

July 15, 2009

For more information:

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**Government  
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