

Directive for Monitoring the Impact of Sulphur Dust on Soils (December, 2011)

FACTSHEET

What is the Directive for Monitoring the Impact of Sulphur Dust on Soils?

The *Directive for Monitoring the Impact of Sulphur Dust on Soils* specifies Alberta Environment and Water's regulatory requirements and provides professional guidance on monitoring and mitigation activities for the impact of sulphur dust on soils in the vicinity of an approved plant that handles solid elemental sulphur. The *Directive* supersedes the *Soil Monitoring Guidelines* in section II.C.3 and Appendix A-7 of the Alberta Environment 1989 *Air Monitoring Directive*. Pertinent approval holders and their consultants should use this new *Directive* to conduct the above noted activities. Proactive source control, timely assessment and effective mitigation will protect the soil resources and allow effective management of potential cumulative effects of sulphur dust on soils.

Structure of the Directive

There are four major sections in this *Directive*:

- Section 1: Common Types of Sulphur Manufacturing, Processing and Storage Operations in Alberta;
- Section 2: Baseline Site Characterization Program;
- Section 3: Routine Monitoring Program; and
- Section 4: Mitigation Program.

Section 1 of the *Directive* identifies types of industries where soil monitoring for the potential impact from deposition of sulphur dust is typically required. Section 2 describes the characterization of site conditions that must be conducted prior to commencement of sulphur operations at a new plant site, or a plant expanding to include those operations. Section 3 specifies the monitoring program to screen possible deposition of sulphur dust and consequent soil acidification. Section 4 describes mitigation measures for managing the impacts of sulphur dust on soils.

When is this Directive required?

The new *Directive* will come into force for relevant approvals when they are amended to include the *Directive*. Prior to any approval amendment, the approval holders may voluntarily use the new *Directive*, but they will need to clarify the reporting requirements with the Director. In this case they must choose the new *Directive* or remain with the 1989 *Soil Monitoring Guidelines* in their entirety - they cannot use both.

Contacts

For general comments and questions regarding this new *Directive*, contact:

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Email: land.management@gov.ab.ca.

For site-specific issues related to this *Directive*, please see the *Directive for Monitoring the Impact of Sulphur Dust on Soils - Frequently Asked Questions* (AEW, 2011), or contact regional staff members of Alberta Environment and Water.

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