

May 25, 2020

To: Owners/Operators of Waterworks and Wastewater Systems (Municipal and Industrial) in Alberta

As we continue to work through the challenges brought by COVID-19 for our working and personal lives, I want to thank you all for your commitment and passion to ensure as few disruptions as humanly possible in the delivery of essential drinking water and wastewater services for Albertans. With some health care experts warning of a possible second wave of COVID-19 infections, we recommend that your facility pandemic mitigation measures remain in place for now.

Although the focus of the AEP DW/WW contingency team is on preventing/mitigating COVID-19 related impacts, our new information management tool for tracking facility operational status and operator assistance procedures has proven helpful in assisting the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo following the catastrophic ice jam flooding. We would like to extend a warm thank you to the Alberta Water & Wastewater Operators Association, and Mr. Dan Rites in particular, for helping AEP develop a process for operator assistance requests from water utilities.

Recognizing the difficulties faced by operators during this stressful period, AEP's Operator Certification team has implemented the following measures:

- deferral of payment for all operator renewal fees until January 2021;
- increased online availability of operator training courses for CEUs; and
- protective COVID-19 safeguards to enable certification exams to be written in "live" classrooms as per regular practice.

For more information, please see our [Certification e-Bulletin](#) (also attached).

Please continue to take all necessary precautions to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure. If you are having difficulties acquiring personal protective equipment through regular suppliers, check out the [PPE Guidelines](#) and [Alberta Health Website](#) to assist in making PPE requests, and the website <http://alberta.ca/ppe-request>.

For owners/operators of Classes I and II municipal wastewater facilities and systems registered under a *Code of Practice for Wastewater Systems Using a Wastewater Lagoon*, you can expect AEP staff to be contacting you soon to complete a short survey of operational status and any issues/risks related to COVID-19.

For large commercial/institutional buildings vacated for weeks and now re-opening, the Government of Alberta has [provided guidance on water line flushing](#) to building owners/property managers to address public health concerns from stagnant water.

The Canadian Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) has also published two e-publications on this topic:

[“SAFELY RE-OPENING BUILDINGS - General Guidance for Water Utilities”](#)

[“SAFELY RE-OPENING BUILDINGS a FACT SHEET for Building Owners/Operators”](#)

More information on water stagnation in buildings is attached to this email.

As before, we want to remind facilities/systems with EPEA authorizations that contraventions must be reported to EDGE (Environmental and Dangerous Goods Emergencies) at 780-422-4504 or 1-800-222-6514 as per regular operations. For non-emergency support during normal business hours, please refer to your respective drinking water and/or wastewater contacts on the AEP maps previously provided.

Additional information can be found on the [Government of Alberta's COVID-19 pandemic planning for the water and wastewater sector page](#), including:

- Alberta wastewater environmental response line (and AEP contacts) (April 16 2020)
- Frequently Asked Questions: COVID-19 – Drinking Water Facilities (April 9)
- Ministerial Order (M.O. 17/2020) (March 31)
- Business Continuity Planning for Water & Wastewater Systems (March 26)
- Alberta drinking water environmental response line (and AEP contacts) (March 26)
- Conditional Certification during the COVID-19 Pandemic (March 24)
- Guidance for workplaces to reduce risk of transmission, employment standards, employment insurance benefits
- Preventing COVID-19 in the workplace: Employers, employees and essential service workers

All the best and stay healthy!

Sincerely,



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Attachments

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