

# Notice

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

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### **Legislation:**

Safety Codes Act, Private Sewage Disposal Systems 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 Systems 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 Systems Regulation that is administered by Alberta Safety Codes Authority and accredited municipalities. A sewage treatment system under the Private Sewage Disposal Systems Regulation 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 Alberta Environment and Parks does not cause the system to fall under Alberta Environment and Parks 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 Alberta Municipal Affairs jurisdiction or Alberta Environment and Parks jurisdiction, must meet standards, guidelines and policies established by the respective department. Approval from Alberta Environment and Parks is required before using any crown lands for the management or disposal of wastewater at work camps. Private Sewage Permits that are administered by Alberta Safety Codes Authority and accredited municipalities or an Approval for construction and operation of wastewater system issued by Alberta Environment and Parks does not replace the need to obtain an approval from Alberta Environment and Parks for using the crown land. Alberta Environment and Parks approval must be in place prior to any construction of a camp or wastewater treatment system located on crown land.

For further information, contact Municipal Affairs, Technical and Corporate Services toll-free at 1-866-421-6929.

<https://www.alberta.ca/private-sewage-codes-and-standards.aspx>