



December 9, 2011

AOWMA Acting On Member-Presented Enforcement, Inspection and Permitting Issues

On November 4 the association met with senior members of Alberta Municipal Affairs to present specific examples it has been gathering regarding Standard of Practice and Safety Codes Act violations, and to discuss issues and concerns the AOWMA has with the current industry enforcement framework. That was followed up with a November 5 meeting with Safety Codes Council officials on the same topics. The AOWMA came away with a stronger understanding of the workings of the safety codes and enforcement process, and the Province and Safety Codes Council gained a stronger appreciation of the AOWMA's strong concerns over the lack of industry enforcement, and inconsistent permitting and inspection practices. Since that time, the AOWMA has been working very closely with Municipal Affairs and municipalities to bring resolution to the issues the AOWMA has brought forward. The association is pleased with the attention it is receiving on some of the case files, and it is hoped that significant progress on some noted code and Act violations could be made by the 2012 Convention.

Rural municipalities play a key role in supporting the Safety Codes Act that in part governs permitting and inspection practices. The AOWMA, along with Municipal Affairs and the Safety Codes Council, are currently planning to speak at each of the five county district meetings across the Province over the next few months. As part of its presentation, the AOWMA will underscore its focus on better enabling enforcement frameworks that are in place and the specific ways it is working with all stakeholders to ensure proper industry practices are maintained across Alberta.

NAWT Operation and Maintenance Certification Program Available at Convention

The AOWMA has arranged with the National Association of Waste Transporters (NAWT) in the United States to provide their Operation and Maintenance Certification Program available for delegates at convention as part of AOWMA's continuing education training initiative. Delegates to the convention can choose to participate in either part or all of the training program. This training program is nationally recognized and those who successfully complete the entire program may choose to apply for formal NAWT Certification and a listing on NAWT's website.

The Operation and Maintenance training program was developed by Jim Anderson and Dave Gustafson of the University of Minnesota. Dave and Jim are familiar to AOWMA members as key contributors to much of the current training available across North America on onsite wastewater management. Dave and Jim have presented at previous conventions hosted by the AOWMA and are a welcome addition to the convention program.

The Operation and Maintenance Certification program is comprised of the following convention sessions:

- Introduction Definition of Terms and the Plan, the Site Visit, Safety First & Math Refresher
- Septic Tank Operation & Maintenance
- Gravity Soil Treatment System Operation & Maintenance
- Operation and Maintenance of Pumping Systems, Controls, Timers
- Operation and Maintenance of Low Pressure Pipes
- Assign & Discuss Homework Assignment
- Homework Review
- Operation & Maintenance of Aerobic Treatment Units
- Operation & Maintenance of Media Filters
- Operation & Maintenance of Drip Irrigation Filters
- Operation & Maintenance Exam

New Format for Trade Show Exhibition

The trade show which has traditionally been held over two days has been changed to a longer full day and evening event. This change was made in consultation with the exhibitors during meetings held earlier in the year. The longer day and evening event will allow those working throughout the day to attend in the evening if they choose to do so. Those delegates attending sessions throughout the day of the trade show will be able to visit the trade show booths during scheduled breaks in the programming.

Technical sessions delivered by the exhibitors will be delivered in the trade show hall. These sessions will be listed in the convention program to help attendees plan their trade show visit.

Book Your Hotel Room in Advance

The AOWMA has negotiated excellent room rates with the Mayfield Inn for those planning to attend the convention and trade show. Special rates are available until January 6, but room quantities are limited, so book in advance if at all possible.

You may contact the Mayfield Inn by mail, fax or email. Contact information is listed below:

By Mail to:
Mayfield Inn & Suites
c/o Reservations
16615 109 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5P 4K8

Or Fax: 780 481 3923

Or E-mail: info.mayfield@silverbirchhotels.com

Or Phone: 1-888-422-6232 in Canada