



Enforcement on the Horizon

AOWMA

After years of advocating better enforcement for the onsite wastewater industry, movement in that direction is finally taking shape. This spring, an Alberta homeowner was fined for “failing to remedy the contraventions of the Private Sewage Standard of Practice”. In basic terms, the homeowner had initially applied for a permit to install an open discharge system on his property, however the property was not large enough to meet the required horizontal setbacks under the Standard of Practice. Although the permit was denied, the homeowner carried out the installation of the open discharge system.

The homeowner was then issued an Order by the Safety Codes Officer, acting on behalf of the County. The homeowner still did not bring his system into compliance, therefore the County sued the homeowner.

The result of the legal action was that the homeowner was directed to immediately remove the pump and stop using the open discharge. The homeowner was directed to have the tank pumped regularly and the septage hauled to a receiving facility until such time as the proper permits were obtained and an appropriate onsite wastewater system installed that meets the current Standard of Practice. The homeowner was given two months following the Consent Order from the court to complete this process. The homeowner was also directed to pay the County \$2,000.00 to cover the County’s legal costs.

Changes to the Safety Codes Act, adopted in 2016, allow for administrative penalties for infractions related to the Alberta Private Sewage Systems Regulation and the Alberta Permit Regulation among others. Penalties can be assessed for unpermitted systems and non-compliant systems.

Onsite Wastewater Practitioner Training

AOWMA

The next available training session dates are:

Days 1 – 4 – August 7, 8, 9 & 10, 2017, High River, AB

Days 5 – 8 – August 22, 21, 24 & 25, 2017, High River, AB

[Register online](#) or contact the association office at 855-872-2650 for more information.

Member Benefits: Insurance

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The AOWMA has partnered with two great companies (Lloyd Sadd Insurance Brokers and Sustainable Infrastructure Society), giving members options for their insurance needs.

This insurance program provides those coverages not generally available through business insurance such as Errors and Omissions coverage and Pollution Liability.

More information is available in your membership package, or by contacting our office.

Upcoming Industry Events

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You can keep up-to-date on industry events on our events page! (<http://www.aowma.com/calendar/>) The AOWMA events page has recently been updated and features a calendar configuration, making it easier than ever to see what industry events are just around the corner.