



October 6, 2011

## **New Enforcement Strategy Underway**

The AOWMA's recently outlined enforcement strategy has been launched. The initiative is based on installers' readiness to bring forward witnessed accounts of installation practices that do not uphold directives outlined in the Standard of Practice.

In the past month, 15 such examples, or case files, have been reported to the AOWMA. Contractors provided a legal land description where the infraction occurred along with a brief summary of the issue. From there, the AOWMA filed the issue in its database and has followed up with either the inspector or municipality to advise them of the concern. In one case a property owner had been briefed on potential breaches to the Standard regarding a system under construction.

The review of many of these cases are ongoing. In all instances the local inspector has been made aware of each issue, and is keeping a close watch on any activity that is or may take place on the property. Some of the concerns that were brought forward were in relation to site evaluation techniques, and therefore no permit had been taken. But each inspector in these cases has flagged the legal land description and will pay extra attention during the permit application review process.

The case file database continues to grow almost daily. These examples have since been forwarded to Alberta Municipal Affairs Assistant Deputy Minister Ivan Moore, along with a set of milestone dates that outline demanded courses of action the association expects the department to take. Moore had requested this level of detail so that his department can make better informed decisions on how to proceed in addressing the ongoing enforcement issues that the AOWMA continues to bring forward.

The AOWMA will update all stakeholders with the results of its investigative process as results come in.

The AOWMA encourages contractors to bring their concerns forward to Executive Director Keith Gylander at 780-929-6683 or toll free at 1-877-489-7471.

## **AOWMA Pushing for Flowrate Changes for Next Install Season**

The AOWMA argues that one of the major causes for the expanded size and cost of most onsite wastewater systems over the last two years is the increased allocation for fixture units that must be taken into account when calculating maximum daily flow volumes. The association feels that the current fixture allocation model is flawed, and is causing significant concerns among installers across the province.

In fact, there is a direct sequential relationship at play. Higher flow calculations result in bigger systems, resulting in increased cost, resulting in shocked homeowners looking to find a cheaper way to install systems, resulting in homeowners looking at construction shortcuts, resulting in systems that do not meet code. This dangerous cycle places responsible installers at a disadvantage when competing with other contractors who knowingly install illegal systems under the cover of a weakly enforced provincial regulatory framework.



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### **Plans for New Installer Training**

The AOWMA is responding to industry concerns by bringing forward proposed changes to its training program and contractor certification requirements.

The association is calling upon the provincial government to adopt and support the Introduction to Onsite training modules that would be a prerequisite to the current training program. The new modules have been outlined and would be compulsory for students with little or no industry experience. It is expected that the introduction modules would add between two and three days to the current six-day program.

In addition, the AOWMA is calling for a mandated soils evaluation training day as part of PSDS certification requirements. This will help ensure students have some level of field experience before they enter the workforce. The in-field training may also include a demonstration day that would allow each student to be present during the construction of an actual mound or field system.

The hands-on training would differentiate very little from the field training that the association currently offers. All new training offerings will be dependent upon provincial funding.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### Onsite Wastewater Practitioner Training Program

Days 1 – 3	November 23, 24 & 25	Edmonton, AB
Days 4 – 6	December 7, 8 & 9, 2011	Edmonton, AB

Treatment Field Installation Training Day  
November 4, 2011      Spruce Grove, AB

Convention & Trade Show  
January 26 – 28, 2012      Edmonton, AB