

From the Northern Health Authority

Dear Camp Operator:

Regarding your industrial camp application and intention to construct an industrial camp, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of your responsibilities as a camp operator within the Province of British Columbia. The Ministry of Health enforces the following regulations that apply to industrial camps:

BC Reg 427/83 Industrial Camp Regulations

BC Reg 411/85 Sewage Disposal Regulations

BC Reg 230/92 Safe Drinking Water Regulations

BC Reg 210/99 Food Premises Regulations

Copies of these regulations can be obtained from Queens Printer Supply and Services, 521 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1E7 Phone# 250-386-4636. You can also access some of these regulations on the Internet at www.hlth.gov.bc.ca/protect/index.html the Public Health Protection site.

Enclosed for your information are the Northeast Service Delivery Area Guidelines for Industrial Camps.

If you have any questions regarding the Regulation and Guidelines applicable to your camp feel free to contact an Environmental Health Officer at the Northeast Health Services Offices, Monday through Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm.

Yours truly,

Environmental Health Officer

SQ/vb
Encl.

Guidelines for Industrial Camps Sumps

Sumps

1. Sumps will only be considered for camps less than 6 months duration.
2. Sumps should be of sufficient size to prevent overflow into the environment. A minimum level of 1.0 meter freeboard shall be maintained in the sump to prevent overflow to the environment. When the sewage effluent is within one meter of the surface of the land, the sump must be pumped and the contents hauled away to an approved disposal facility or another sump must be constructed.
3. Sumps must be located **at least** 5 meters (20ft) from buildings, and a minimum of 30 meters (100ft) from drinking and surface water sources. **At Drilling Rig Sites Only**, the setback for sumps will be reduced to 5 feet due to the limited lease sizes.
4. **All** sumps must be bermed sufficiently to prevent runoff from entering the sump.
5. A sturdy fence to prevent access by humans and animals must surround sumps.
6. In permeable soils, a septic tank must be installed prior to the sump.
7. In warmer months, sumps may require covering to exclude insects that could transmit disease.

Sump Closure

8. Upon closing the camp, the effluent must be:
 - (a) Hauled to an approved sewage disposal site.
 - (b) Treated on-site and discharged under permit from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Pollution Prevention Branch.
 - (c) In limited circumstances, sump effluent may be buried onsite provided the effluent will not reach the surface of the land and does not result in the creation of a health hazard. Contact your local EHO prior to burying any sump.

Guidelines for Industrial Camp Sewage Disposal Systems

BC Sewage Disposal Regulations require all sewage systems for Industrial Camps <100 persons and under 5000 gallons per day to be installed under a permit issued by Northeast Health Services.

Procedure for Obtaining a Permit and/or Approval

Camps in operation for 6 months and longer will be required to obtain a permit to construct a sewage disposal system. In order to complete the application for permit, the following will be required:

- Legal Description of property where camp will be situated
- Name and address of company
- Type of buildings to be serviced by the sewage disposal system
- Estimated daily sewage flow-refer to Appendix 1 of BC Reg 411/85-sewage disposal regulation
- Soil profile to a depth of twelve feet
- Distances from sources of water (i.e. wells, cisterns, lakes, streams, etc.)
- A plan of the camp, showing the location of buildings, water sources, slope of the land and proposed location of the sewage disposal system.

Once the application has been completed and the processing fee of \$250.00 has been paid to the NHA, the Inspector will visit the campsite to ensure the sewage disposal system can be installed at the proposed location. Prior to inspecting the site the following may be required:

- Percolation tests- minimum of two tests at a depth of 4 ft
- An observation hole 12 feet deep

The results will assist in determining the appropriate method of sewage disposal for the site. To obtain a sewage disposal permit application or the construction guidelines for the different types of sewage disposal systems, contact an Environmental Health Officer at one of the offices listed.

Methods of Sewage Disposal

The following are approved methods of sewage disposal for industrial camps

- Storage of sewage in a holding tank or clay sump on site and haul to an authorized facility for treatment and disposal
- Constructions of a subsurface disposal system, includes a septic tank or package treatment plant with effluent going to a seepage pit or absorption field
- Construction of a permanent sewage lagoon

Temporary Industrial Camps (6 months or less)

For industrial camps in operation for less than 6 months, a permit and/or processing fee may be waived at the discretion of the Environmental Health Officer, if an inspection of the site is unlikely. This in no way relieves the responsibility of the operator to notify the EHO of an installation and dispose of sewage in a manner approved by the EHO. Please refer to the Industrial Camp Sump Guidelines.

Northern Health Authority Drinking Water for Industrial Camps

As per B.C. Peg 23/92 the Safe Drinking Water Regulation and the B.C. Reg 427/83 the Industrial Camp Regulations, it is the responsibility of the camp operator to provide an adequate supply of safe water to all users for domestic purposes.

The Ministry of Health requires that an application to construct a waterworks system be submitted to a Public Health Engineer prior to installing or using the system. This is a requirement for any camp which wishes to use surface water or groundwater for the source of potable water.

If the camp operator prefers to haul water from an already existing and approved source, they are required to only use water tank trucks that are holders of valid operating permits issued by the Ministry of Health.

Approved drinking water can be purchased in bulk at designated water depots from the communities of Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Fort Nelson, Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, or wish further information on submitting water system proposals to the Public Health Engineer, please contact an Environmental Health Officers at Northeast Health Services.

Dawson Creek	(250) 784-2400
Fort St. John	(250) 787-3355
Fort Nelson	(250) 774-7092

