

**Issues**

Since finalizing the *Stormwater Management Guidelines for the Province of Alberta*, there have been a number of queries from the Approval Writers and some of the municipalities as to how the guidelines will be applied with respect to stormwater quality.

Development of a stormwater management policy takes into consideration the following key issues:

- i) Regulatory Consistency - There should be general consistency across the municipalities and the Regional Offices in terms of when and how the policy should be applied. The policy shall be applied to all municipalities involved in land development, at the watershed planning stage.
- ii) Minimum Quality Standards - Storm outfalls without due consideration for water quality improvement shall not be allowed. Stormwater management techniques to improve water quality shall be included to effect a minimum of 85% removal of sediments of particle size 75 µm or greater. Additional quality management measures shall be required, based on site-specific conditions.
- iii) Stormwater Management Plan - All municipalities will be required to develop a stormwater management plan with emphasis on stormwater discharge controls and possible quality management options (i.e. both immediate and ultimate plans to protect the receiving waters). Regions will work with the municipalities to develop a Master Drainage Plan to address both the quantitative and qualitative problems. Where appropriate, this process should be integrated into the Drainage System Approval for the municipalities, i.e. if the Approval is issued that incorporate the "total loading concept".
- iv) Receiving Water Quality Assessment - Municipalities may not be required to undertake a water quality assessment to estimate the impact of stormwater on receiving body of water, however, receiving water quality concerns and specific site conditions should be taken into account in developing the stormwater management plan.

**POLICY**

This policy applies to “storm drainage collection system” and “storm drainage treatment facility” as defined in the *Wastewater and Storm Drainage Regulation*.

Regions will ensure that the municipalities, in planning and implementing surface drainage, adopt an integrated approach to stormwater management, beginning at the watershed and sub-watershed levels and extending to the subdivision/site plan level with emphasis on stormwater quality and best management practices (BMPs), both structural and non-structural.

All municipalities will be required to develop a Master Drainage Plan, within a span of five years from the time this policy takes effect. The plan shall incorporate stormwater management techniques to effect a minimum of 85% removal of sediments of particle size 75 µm or greater. Regions will work with the municipalities to develop a Master Drainage Plan, and this process shall be integrated into the Drainage System Approval for the municipalities.

Receiving water quality concerns and specific site conditions should be taken into account in developing the stormwater management plan, which may result in higher than 85% removal of sediments. Consideration shall be given to stormwater management measures, including stormwater lot level controls, stormwater conveyance controls and pre-release stormwater management facilities. The municipalities shall select the BMP in the context of land use and environmental planning, taking into consideration the receiving water quality concerns, site conditions, and applicability of the selected BMP under the local conditions.

Note: It should be noted that reducing the impact from existing developments is difficult and has limited effect; thus, this policy is aimed at new developments.