

Solid Waste Management

The Environmental Management and Protection Act 2010



Plan for Growth

The ministry is responsible for regulating waste management, compliance, and the overall protection of human health and the environment. As such, the ministry has established requirements and practices for solid waste management in Saskatchewan, including issuing permits (to construct, expand and close a facility), reviewing monitoring results, inspections and enforcing legislation. As knowledge and techniques change, the ministry has adapted its solid waste management practices to reflect

the mandate set out in the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth 2020*, which is to ensure infrastructure addresses the challenges of growth and protects the environment. All municipally owned landfills and transfer stations will continue to be permitted pursuant to The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations and private and industrial landfills will be regulated pursuant to The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010 (EMPA 2010) when the legislation comes into force on June 1, 2015.

Application and Permits

The results-based regulatory (RBR) framework focuses on required environmental outcomes, emphasizes best practices, and encourages innovation by making operators accountable to find the best way to achieve or exceed the required outcomes. The Saskatchewan Environmental Code is an important part of the legal framework supporting the results-based approach. Although there are no current code chapters specific to landfills and transfer stations, chapters dealing with

environmentally impacted sites in general may apply when a site is decommissioned. The ministry provides guidance documents to assist with the design and operation of landfill and transfer station facilities. Applications for design, operation, and closure of a waste disposal grounds or industrial waste works should be based on best practices as recognized by the ministry which can include those of another jurisdiction, signed-off by a qualified professional, and submitted to the assigned environmental protection officer for approval and inclusion in the permit.

Common questions regarding the code:

- Q.** How are waste management works regulated?
- A:** Municipal or government owned landfills will continue to be permitted under The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations, (MRMR). All other landfills (e.g. private, industrial, or municipal accepting greater than 20 per cent industrial waste) will be issued an Industrial Waste Works permit under The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010 (EMPA 2010).
- Q.** How does the code apply to a landfill?
- A:** There are no applicable construction or operating requirements for landfills or transfer stations in the first version of the code.
- A:** Site closure may require operators to follow certain chapters of the code:

Site Assessment - Landfills are considered potentially impacted sites and require a site assessment. The exception would be if a site assessment was already undertaken either prior to construction or at some point prior to closure and results of a groundwater monitoring program have shown no impacts.

Corrective Action Plan – If the site assessment identifies that the site is an environmentally impacted site, then owners shall provide a corrective action for closure of a landfill to identify how the impacts will be addressed to ensure public safety and protection of the environment.

More information on this process can be found in the “Landfill Closure Guidance” document.

Other regulations to consider in solid waste management:

Permits should include procedures for accepting or rejecting hazardous waste as outlined in The Hazardous Substances and Waste Dangerous Goods Regulations.

Solid waste management strategy: The ministry is working on developing a solid waste management strategy that will address waste stewardship, recycling, littering, illegal dump sites, burning, and will provide guidance on waste management works best practices and procedures.

Questions?

Questions about EMPA 2010 refer to:

<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=30313>

Questions about the Code refer to:

<http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/Code>

Questions about hazardous waste refer to:

www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/E10-2R3.pdf

More info?

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