

POLICY # PD 013
PRIVATE SEPTIC SYSTEMS POLICY

APPROVAL DATE:	November 26, 2009 (82-11-09)	CROSS-REFERENCE:	Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice (current version)
RESPONSIBILITY:	Planning & Development Department		
APPROVER:	Council	APPENDICES:	
REVISION DATE (s):	March 29, 2022 (2022-03-46); July 23, 2013 (38-07-13); July 26, 2011 (19-07-11)	REVIEW DATE:	

POLICY STATEMENT

The County of Vermilion River requires on-site wastewater treatment systems that will suit the soil and surrounding areas.

BACKGROUND

On-site Wastewater Treatment systems (PSDS) have been and are regulated under the Safety Codes Act and supporting regulations and standards to ensure wastewater is treated and returned to the environment so that risks to health are not created, the impact on ground and surface waters is minimized, and the environment is not harmed. This Policy has been created for the purposes of new subdivision creation and existing development within in the County of Vermilion River (County) with pre-existing septic systems. As it may be difficult to unearth the entire treatment system the County only requires existing systems to be visually inspected as part of subdivision and development procedures.

Citizens, communities, industries and government bodies all share a responsibly for wise use and sustainability of their watersheds. The County uses this Policy to ensure the Alberta Water for Life strategy principles and (its) goals are maintained. Maintaining a health aquatic ecosystem leads to safe and secure drinking water and results in a reliable water supply.

GUIDELINES

1. The objective of a private Septic Treatment System is to treat wastewater and return it to the environment so that;
 - a. Risks to health are not created,
 - b. The impact on the ground and surface waters is minimized, and
 - c. The environment is not harmed
2. In view of the importance of land suitability to various types of on-site wastewater treatment systems, it is required that a site assessment be conducted. The intention of a site assessment is to evaluate and establish the capability of existing system within proposed and/or existing boundaries. Examples of the types of criteria that should be taken into account before the parcel size and type of system is determined are as follows;
 - a. Proximity to water sources, bodies, and courses
 - b. Proximity to neighboring properties both existing and proposed.
 - c. Property lines
 - d. Distance to existing structure
 - e. Etc.
3. A Site Evaluation can be found under Part 7 of the Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice and is a standard that has been developed for new installation of private sewage systems. The Site Evaluation can be utilized as a guide for existing systems when providing information to the Subdivision and Development Authorities, should an applicant be unfamiliar with their system.
4. A Private Septic Assessment shall provide the visual inspection information to Subdivision and/or Development Authorities on the type of system, setbacks and other information identified on the form approved by the Subdivision and Development authority. This information is required for review and compliance with past and existing regulations.
5. A new system may be required to be installed should the existing system not meet regulations of the Province of Alberta.

The County of Vermilion River requires that a report is given on good science and proper methodologies.

SCOPE

INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS	EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS
Administration	Developers
Council	

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

ROLE/TASK	TITLE (s) OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE
HANDLING INQUIRIES	Director of Planning and Development
MONITORING REVIEWS AND REVISIONS	Director of Planning and Development in conjunction with the Executive Secretary
IMPLEMENTING POLICY	Council
COMMUNICATING POLICY	Chief Administrative Officer