

ISSUE #2 | October – December 2014

Practice and Industry Updates for Practitioners

LETTER FROM THE MANAGER

A lot has happened since I sent out the last report there has been bylaw changes in the Shuswap region affecting setbacks for the installation of systems, incentives to home owners requiring system maintenance on the island, and the release of SPM version 3, including training workshops offered around the province. Proposed changes to the filing forms and the LOC are ongoing. As well as the ROWP competency guidelines nearing completion, and a new policy on Practice Assessment Review (PAR) approved by ASTTBC Council.

In July 2014, WCOMMA signed a memorandum of agreement with ASTTBC; and from the BCOSSA newsletter I see that BCOSSA has sent a request to the government to put a temporary stop to out of province transferees from being registered as ROWP's in BC as they put forward a challenge to the AIT agreement.

The Onsite Wastewater Registration Board (OWRB) has had several board members resign for various reasons which has allowed for new members to join. Change allows for a fresh approach and a new mindset and a fresh look at the Registration Policies. I feel this is a positive proactive approach and allows the OWRB to move forward with new initiatives and ideas. Appointment of the new Chair of the OWRB has had a positive effect on how the meetings are conducted to ensure that the allotted time is managed efficiently. Selection of a new Vice Chair is underway.

This industry is changing rapidly as new members are being registered from a variety of different Onsite Wastewater training backgrounds and the new version of the SPM 3 is complete. I feel change is necessary and must be applied to the policies that govern our members. For these reasons the OWRB has been working towards positive policy changes.

Filing forms:

There has been an ongoing effort by the Health Authorities to improve consistency of the filing forms across the province. The objective is to create one filing form and one Letter of Completion (LOC) that would be used province-wide. The Health Authority has work closely with ASTTBC to produce forms that meet the needs of the industry and the concerns of the Health Authority.

Occupational competencies workshop:

A group of subject matter experts was formed to provide insight and discussions on improving competency guidelines for ROWP's. ASTTBC contracted and facilitator to prepare the revised competencies that will be reviewed by the OWRB before completion. At this time, the OWRB is awaiting feedback from the contractor for review.

SPM Version 3 workshops:

ASTTBC has rolled out mandatory workshops on the SPM V3 Details on how to register for these mandatory training workshops has been sent to you mid-September. An electronic copy of the SPM version 3 has been posted on the Ministry of Health website since September 30, 2014.

Please visit the link below for the B.C Standard Practice Manual (SPM V3)

www.health.gov.bc.ca/protect/lup_standards.html

Locating wells:

Provincially held data indicating well information is available on several publically accessible data bases. IMAPBC and the B.C Water Resource Atlas allow users to search in a GIS based map environment. In addition to wells, you can also use these applications to examine: administrative boundaries, air and climate, archaeology, land ownership, mining and many other areas of interest. The Wells data base can also provide detailed well information and is searchable by many methods including location and well plate numbers, the main Ministry of Environment aquifer data base link is found at the following address: http://www.envgov.bc.ca/wsd/data_searches/wells/. There is a quick tutorial on the website (http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/plan_protect_sustain/groundwater/wells/guid finding well info.pdf)

Septic Maintenance Rebates in the Regional District of Nanaimo:

The program officially started September 15, 2014. For more info the direct link is <http://rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=3312>; they are also directing people to www.septicmart.ca from there, there is a link to the rebate page.

Interior Health Subdivision Documentation:

There have also been changes by Interior Health with regards to some of their existing subdivision materials including the "Subdivision Data Information Record". They are no longer utilizing this document, and it has been pulled from circulation for use, including from their website. They have asked that if you have copies please disregard or recycle them. It has been replaced with one that is reflective of their current requirements when submitting information regarding the suitability of onsite sewerage disposal for a proposed subdivision. It has been replaced with the *Subdivision Report Criteria for Authorized Persons* this document is now posted on their web site under the "Your Environment" Tab, on the "Land Development" page; see the link under "Subdivision" a link to the webpage has been included for your information:

<http://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/LandDevelopment/Pages/default.aspx>

CRD Annual General Meeting:

The CRD has sent out an invitation to all Onsite Waste water Practitioners to attend the Annual Meeting of the CRD. The meeting will be held on

Wednesday November 26, 2014 9:00am-12:00pm at
Comfort Hotel & Conference Center
3020 Blanshard Street, Victoria BC
Continental breakfast will be available from 8:30am

Meeting Highlights:

- Guest Speaker: Gary Anderson, Land use Consultant with Island Health
- Guest Speaker; Shelley Norum, Wastewater program Coordinator, regional District of Nanaimo
- Results of a study by BSc students on businesses using onsite treatment
- Update on an independent Program review of the Onsite Program by KWL

- Preview a new Trucked Liquid Waste video series regarding catch basins maintenance
- Update on Trucked liquid Waste outreach and education
- You can register by email at septic@crd.bc.ca or call 250-360-3187
- Onsite Wastewater Program Coordinator Parks & Environmental Services
Department Capital Regional District

ASTTBC Council Approves Policy on Practice Assessment Review (PAR)

On September 25, 2014 ASTTBC Council approved the following: That the Initial system review (ISR) will be replaced by the Practice Assessment Review (PAR).

1. Under the authority of the Practice Review Board (PAR), ASTTBC members are subject to an assessment of their competencies and practice to determine compliance with certification and registration requirements as specified by the Board of Examiners or the respective Technical Specialist Certification Board's.
2. A Practice Assessment Review (PAR) may be initiated when
 - a) An ASTTBC Member voluntarily requests a review of his or her practice;
 - b) A member is identified by ASTTBC's process of random selection;
 - c) ASTTBC has reason to believe that the practice of a member is inferior to the competency standards required for certification, or is non-compliant to the ASTTBC Code of Ethics or Practice Standards;
 - d) The PRB requires PAR as a censure condition resulting from the investigation of a complaint.

For more information on this contact me by email.

Videos Help OWRB Determine ROWP Competencies:

During OWRB meetings there has been some difficulty for file reviewers trying to assess competency levels of applicants who are seeking to have certain restrictions removed or designations added. It is only a suggestion but several applicants sent in short video of what they were doing to demonstrate their knowledge in the category they were seeking and it was a big improvement over still pictures that limit the information when doing the assessments.

Again I have to remind members that under our code of ethics it is your responsibility to follow the policies that govern your industry.

Policy Oversight (Appendix D) and mentoring (Appendix H) :

There have been several complaints brought forward surrounding ROWP's who continue to allow unauthorised persons to do onsite work without direct supervision , whether they be employees or home owners or contractors our policies are very clear as to your responsibilities and how you are to conduct supervision of non-authorised persons

ROWP's doing inspections (Appendix G):

It seems that ROWP's are unaware of the policy requirements surrounding inspection work, as for when there are no Health Authority records available for an existing system on a property, ASTTBC has guidelines for inspecting sewerage systems which is to be followed by all ROWP's in ANY category of registration. The protocols listed in the guidelines detail the appropriate methods to examine and confirm the condition and location of all parts of the system accurately, and this needs to be done for any compliance type of inspection such as would be required for the subdividing of a property or change in use on a property (swimming pool installation, work shop construction, enlargement of the home, etc.)

ROWP's working outside their scope of registration:

You must be aware that working outside your scope of registration puts you in violation of your code of ethics and subject to disciplinary action.

To familiarise yourself with the policies go to <http://owrp.asttbc.org/p/index.php>. At the top of the home page click on the 'Documents' tab. On the right side you will see examples of planning, maintenance report templates, soil description sheets, drawing check lists etc. On the left you will find the Policies, ASTTBC Act & Regulations, Code of ethics and practice guidelines as well as other important documents. Take the time to read them.

ASTTBC Website Improvements in Progress:

The ASTTBC web site needs to be improved to be more user-friendly. I have been informed that changes in the design and user navigation are presently underway. If you find difficulty in navigating the site let me know. I cannot guarantee change but will forward your request to those who can.

Your Feedback is Welcomed:

I know every ROWP out there has their particular issue or issues about things that are happening within our industry. They wish the issues could be addressed. I certainly have had my share over this past year. Take the time to e-mail or call in, I can't promise I have the resources to fix them but I will certainly forward them up the food chain to those who should hear them. If there are issue you wish to be shared or put out to the membership at large let me know we can discuss them and put them into the next newsletter for all to read.

bburns@asttbc.org or call at 604-585-2788 ext. 255.