

December 13, 2019

Version 3.0 of Sewage Variance Transition Guidance Document Now Available

Version 3.0 of the document includes minor updates to better align with Safety Codes terminology

In 2018, the Government of Alberta began the process of transitioning responsibility for reviewing and approving private sewage variance applications from Alberta Municipal Affairs to Safety Codes Officers employed by or contracted to municipalities. The transition was completed, and municipalities became responsible for the process as of **October 1, 2019**.

The intent of the transition is to bring decisions on suitability and safety of private sewage systems that may not meet current legislated standards to a local level. These variances typically consider variations in prescribed distances and materials.

To support municipalities in understanding their role in the variance process, RMA has participated on a committee with Alberta Municipal Affairs and other relevant provincial, municipal, and safety codes representatives to prepare a guidance document for municipalities. Version 1.0 of the document was released in September 2019 through *Contact*, with an explanation that the document would be updated, and revised versions would be released as further information on the variance process became available. Version 2.0 was shared in late October.

Version 3.0 of the document is now available. The main changes from the previous version include clarification around definitions and terminology to improve consistency with other legislation, regulations and policies, greater clarification that the property owner is responsible for completing and submitting a variance application, and other minor amendments.

To access version 3.0 of the guidance document, [click here](#).

For specific questions about the transition and municipal responsibilities, please contact:

Dean Morin
Administrator, Private Sewage Systems
Standards Development and Support – Mechanical
Alberta Municipal Affairs
780.644.1010
dean.morin@gov.ab.ca

For enquiries, please contact:

2510 Sparrow Drive
Nisku, Alberta T9E 8N5

OFFICE: 780.955.3639
FAX: 780.955.3615
RMAAlberta.com



BULLETIN

Wyatt Skovron
Senior Policy Advisor
wyatt@RMAAlberta.com

Tasha Blumenthal
Director of External Relations & Advocacy
tasha@RMAAlberta.com

2510 Sparrow Drive
Nisku, Alberta T9E 8N5

OFFICE: 780.955.3639
FAX: 780.955.3615
RMAAlberta.com