



# MEMBER ADVISORY

## SEWAGE EJECTOR Q & A

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**April 29, 2010** – Last week, the AMM met with deputy ministers from the departments of Water Stewardship, Conservation, Local Government, and Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives to obtain further details on proposed amendments to the Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation.

With the help of provincial staff, we have compiled the following fact sheet answering the most common questions about the proposed amendments. Please review the fact sheet and if you would require more information, contact an Environment Officer at your local Manitoba Conservation office or go to the Manitoba Conservation website at

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/envprograms/wastewater/index.html>

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### **1. When exactly do I have to get rid of my ejector?**

Under the current regulation, an existing sewage ejector must be taken out of service and decommissioned before the property is transferred or subdivided. A guideline with specific decommissioning requirements is available on the Manitoba Conservation website at [http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/envprograms/wastewater/pdf/sewage\\_ejector\\_system\\_decom\\_2010.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/envprograms/wastewater/pdf/sewage_ejector_system_decom_2010.pdf)

### **2. Under what circumstances can I keep my ejector?**

To be retained following transfer or subdivision, an existing ejector must not be located in an environmentally sensitive area, must be located on a minimum of 4 hectares (10 acres), and must meet all other regulatory requirements.

Environmentally sensitive areas would include:

- a sensitive area listed in Schedule H of the OWMS Regulation (includes Rock Lake and Pelican Lake areas, as an example);
- the Red River Corridor Designated Area (a map of this area is available on the Manitoba Conservation website at - [http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/envprograms/wastewater/pdf/rrcorridor\\_dsgntd\\_area.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/envprograms/wastewater/pdf/rrcorridor_dsgntd_area.pdf));
- a Provincial Park;
- a Crown land cottage subdivision; or
- land classified as soil class 6 or 7 or unimproved organic soil.

Regulatory requirements would include all provisions of Schedule E of the Regulation, Standards for Sewage Ejectors. This includes requirements for the location and operation of an ejector. As an example, all wastewater effluent must be contained within the boundaries of the property onto which it is ejected, and minimum setback distances must be met (such as 200 feet from a water course or property boundary).

**3. Will repairs of existing systems be allowed?**

Yes, repair of an existing sewage ejector would be allowed. Replacement of a system would not be allowed.

**4. Will variances be given for those just under 10 acres?**

Yes, variances for the minimum lot size would be considered on an individual basis. Variances would only be granted if the property was of sufficient size to ensure the protection of human health and the environment and all other regulatory requirements were met.

**5. Will there be any financial support for those who are now required to remove ejector systems?**

Yes, the province is developing a low-interest loan program to assist those installing a new septic field following phase-out of an existing sewage ejector.

**6. What is the requirement to get an inspection and how long will it take?**

A person wishing to retain an existing sewage ejector would, prior to transfer or subdivision, submit an application to Manitoba Conservation and pay a fee of \$150 (the same fee formerly charged to install an ejector). Review of the application by the Department would include an inspection of the property by an Environment Officer to confirm compliance with the Regulation. The inspection and processing of the application would occur within ten working days of receipt of the complete application.

**7. What about those individuals who did work between October and now?**

The proposed regulatory changes would not affect any work undertaken by individuals in response to the original amendments from October 2009.

**8. Is there ability for the vendor to eliminate their liability when they sell their property and decommissioning hasn't been done?**

Yes, there would be a mechanism that would allow the responsibility for decommissioning an existing sewage ejector to be shifted from the vendor to the purchaser.

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