

Certified Private Sewage Treatment Systems

Installers

Planning & Development

Policy M6

Policy:	M6 – Certified Private Sewage Treatment Systems Installers
Policy Department(s):	Planning and Development
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Policy Purpose

Poorly designed Private Sewage Treatment Systems or installation by inexperienced installers can result dangerous system failures or expensive repairs causing significant impact on the health and safety of the environment, people, places, and things. Owners are responsible for all maintenance and operations of their Private Sewage Treatment System. Therefore, the County recommends all systems be designed and installed by a Certified Private Sewage Treatment Installer.

Policy Statement

Private sewage systems are an effective way to manage waste. It is important that these systems are designed and installed correctly to ensure the health and safety of County residents and the environment. The County of Grande Prairie is committed to ensuring these systems meet the highest standards and recommends that Certified Private Sewage Treatment System Installers are used for all installation and repairs of these systems.

Definitions

“Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice” means the minimum design and installation standards set out by the Province of Alberta.

“Certified Private Sewage Treatment System Installer” means a person who holds a renewable certificate issued by the Alberta Wastewater Onsite Contractor Association to carry out the installation, alteration, or addition of a Private Sewage Treatment System within the Province of Alberta.

“Private Sewage Treatment System” means a sewage treatment and disposal system located and maintained on private land by landowners and not the municipality.

Policy Guidelines

1. The Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice outlines the requirements for submission of technical information related to private sewage treatment permit

applications. It is of utmost importance that these systems are designed and installed correctly to ensure the health and safety of County residents and the environment.

2. The County will only issue permits in accordance with the Safety Codes Act that have been thoroughly completed. County staff can assist with defining the type of information and how to obtain the information to complete an application. County staff will not provide responses to application questions, nor will they perform any calculations or analysis to identify the design criteria needed for a Private Sewage System.
3. The applicant must provide all design specifications based on site characteristics and system requirements. County staff will evaluate applications based on the information provided by the applicant.
4. In accordance with the Alberta Permit Regulations, applications can be completed by:
 - 4.1 Certified Private Sewage Treatment Installers, or
 - 4.2 Homeowners who own and reside in or intend to reside in the residence on the affected site and are completing the work themselves, or
 - 4.3 Owner of a farm building for a Private Sewage Treatment System that serves the farm building.
5. Owners applying for a permit shall be required to demonstrate competency in completing the applications for Private Sewage Treatment Systems for the County to consider the issuance of the permit.

Attachments

N/A

References

Legal Authorities	Safety Codes Act RSA 2000, c S-1 Permit Regulations The Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice
Related Plans, Bylaws, Policies, Etc.	B1 – Policy Development (all policies will reference Policy B1) Uniform Quality Management Plan
Other	Private Sewage Treatment System Application Form – available on the County of Grande Prairie No.1 website

Revision History

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May 4, 2026	Reviewed and Presented for Information CM20260504.056
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