

GUIDANCE

REGIONAL OPERATIONS BRANCH | April 2020

## Guidance for Developing a Municipal Wastewater Facility Closure Plan Municipal Wastewater Regulation

### Purpose of this document

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The Municipal Wastewater Regulation (MWR) provides authorization for a discharge of municipal effluent or use of reclaimed water in British Columbia. One of the requirements for temporary systems, is to include a closure plan within the operating plan. There is little direction in the MWR regarding what should be in a closure plan; this document is meant to provide recommendations to operators on what to include in closure plans.

### Requirement for a Closure Plan

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In order to meet the requirements of Division 4, section 23 (d) of the MWR, the discharger of a temporary treatment system must submit a closure plan, made by a qualified professional, which describes the procedures for decommissioning the system when it is no longer required. The closure plan outline below is meant to provide guidance to the qualified professional when preparing a closure plan for a specific wastewater facility.

Closure plans must be developed by qualified professionals (QP). When developing and implementing closure plans, qualified professionals are advised to:

- Draw on knowledge of, or experience with, existing successful closure plans;
- Refer to appropriate guideline and objective documents relating to water, soil, sediment, groundwater etc.
- Consult with experienced operators familiar with the facility;

## Closure Plan Outline

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The closure plan must include:

### Introduction

This section should:

- Provide an overview of the treatment facilities on site
- Provide details on; the population served, years of anticipated operation, class of discharge, discharge to ground or water and any reclaimed water uses
- Describe the location of the facility, related treatment components, and authorized works. A site map should also be included.
- Brief description of the closure plan objectives

### Closure Requirements

This section should:

- Outline the schedule/timelines for decommissioning the facility and site closure
- Describe decontamination procedures for all facility components and equipment
- Describe procedures for disposal of any residual wastewater and sludge i.e. hauled to another approved facility for disposal
- Describe all facility components, equipment, chemicals, and authorized works and provide detail as to what will be removed from site
- Describe erosion and sediment control if ground disturbance is expected
- Provide details of any facility components and authorized works that will remain on site i.e.: lagoons, and the steps that will be taken to decommission and remediate
- Describe mitigation and management of any potential impacts on the receiving environment
- Provide an inventory of all groundwater wells on site that were used for receiving environment monitoring. Outline the steps that will be taken to decommission the groundwater wells in accordance with Part 9 of the Groundwater Protection Regulation.
- Describe the steps that will be taken to remediate and restore the site.

## Post-Closure Report

The post-closure report is submitted when all closure activities are complete, and the registration is ready to be cancelled (de-registered). **Note:** the post closure report is typically submitted to support the request to cancel the MWR registration associated with the site.

This report should include but is not limited to:

- A summary of closure activities completed in comparison with the approved closure plan that was submitted at the time of registration
- Documentation to support any:
  - off-site disposal of residual wastewater and sludge
  - removal of facility components, chemicals and authorized works
  - groundwater monitoring well closure reports
  - receiving environment final sampling, results and interpretation (groundwater, surface water, soil, sediment, etc.)
  - findings of contamination and details of how it will be dealt with
  - post closure monitoring that is required
  - site pictures following closure
- QP declaration of competency and conflict of interest forms which can be found at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content?id=176800153D4946D095D73088CE12DD43>

### Disclaimer

*The guidance provided in this document helps to clarify ministry policy and the provisions of the Environmental Management Act (the Act) and the Municipal Wastewater Regulation (MWR). This is not a legal document and the information in it does not constitute legal advice or impose any legally binding requirements. Guidance provided in this document does not replace the Act, the MWR or any other applicable law. Any amendments to the Act, the MWR and other legislation referred to in this document may affect provisions of the guidance; in the event of an inconsistency, the Act, MWR or other applicable legislation will prevail.*

REVISION HISTORY			
Approval Date	Effective Date	Document Version	Notes
March 2020	April 20, 2020	Ver. 1	Document created