



ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR UNPLANNED RELEASES OF POTABLE WATER TO THE STORM SYSTEM

This bulletin is intended to provide guidance to Contractors on requirements and expectations during emergency situations, typically as a result of a main or service line break, where highly turbid potable water is discharged to the storm drainage system. Pumping turbid, potable water into the storm drain system is considered a release to the environment. Federal, Provincial and Municipal legislation require these discharges to be reported and mitigated.

The Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Section 108, states:

“No person shall release or permit the release of a substance into the environment, in an amount, concentration or at a level or rate of release, that causes or may cause, an adverse effect”

In order to ensure both the Contractor and the City of Calgary remain compliant to the Act, the Contractor performing the work is responsible for the following actions:

- 1) Report the release of any unpermitted water (dirty and or potable/chlorinated water) into the storm system to The City @ 3-1-1 and AEP @ 1-800-222-6514, and;
- 2) Implement sediment control and dechlorination devices to mitigate the release of any such unpermitted water. The goal of these mitigation measures is to reduce turbidity to <100 NTU and free chlorine to <0.1 mg/L before entering the Storm Drainage System.

Note that although Drainage Permits are neither required nor issued for emergency release situations, a similar level of diligence is required to ensure regulatory compliance.

Be advised that Contractors who are found non-compliant to Municipal, Provincial and Federal regulations may result in enforcement action from The City of Calgary, Alberta Environment, and/or Environment Canada. Water Resources indemnified contractors who are found non-compliant to these regulations may also see their indemnification status impacted.

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