

# ***Slaughter and Poultry Processing Industries***

## **Policy Intentions Paper Addendum – June 2007**

### **Modifications to the Proposed Slaughter and Poultry Processing Industries Policy Intentions Paper**

The Ministry of Environment (MOE) intends to establish a code of practice for the slaughter and poultry processing industries under the *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) and *Waste Discharge Regulation* (WDR). The original intentions paper concerning the proposed code of practice was posted on the ministry's website on May 1, 2007 (see: [www.env.gov.bc.ca/epdiv/ema\\_codes\\_of\\_practice/index.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epdiv/ema_codes_of_practice/index.html)).

The Ministry is targeting June 30, 2007 for the effective date of the Code. Facilities operating under the Code will not require MOE permits if they are disposing of their waste according to the methods of disposal set out in the Code. This timing is particularly important to the industry because of other government regulations coming into effect.

Based on comments received on the proposed provisions in the Intentions Paper, the ministry is proposing the following modifications for inclusion in the code of practice:

#### **Section 4.1 Scope of the proposed code of practice**

- Remove the two year transition period to achieve compliance with the code as all existing sites that are discharging wastewater to functioning subsurface disposal systems (i.e. tile fields) will be authorized.

#### **Section 4.2 Management of liquid wastes (wastewater) discharged by slaughter or poultry processing facilities.**

##### **B. Category B facilities**

##### **i) Subsurface application (drain/tile field) of treated wastewater.**

- Remove the numerical standards for the wastewater discharge (10 mg/L fat, oil and grease, 130 mg/L carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand, and 130 mg/L total suspended solids) and provide the standards in a guidance document.
- Category B facilities with tile fields that are functioning as of September 30, 2007 will be authorized as long as:
  - The tile field does not show any evidence that it has "failed".
  - Failure of the tile field would be shown by:
    - surfacing of the discharge, or
    - subsurface discharge causing the groundwater table to be raised to the surface.

After September 30, 2007, new tile fields for subsurface discharge from Category B facilities will only be required to be designed by a qualified professional and installed according to the design. (This will include replacement of tile fields in the case of failure.) These systems will then be required to meet the above criteria of *no: surfacing of the discharge; or causing the groundwater table to be raised to the surface.*

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### **ii) Beneficial re-use of treated wastewater by irrigation.**

The ministry is also proposing another option that will allow low volume land application of slaughter wastewater in a farm setting as described below:

- for wastewater that is being discharged by a farmer\* onto the ground for irrigation and/or fertilization, the requirement would be that the wastewater
  - be applied at an agronomic rate, and
  - the total volume not exceed 100 m<sup>3</sup> annual discharge.

\*A farmer means a person holding a farm land classification under the provisions of the *Assessment Act*.

### **Section 4.4 Incineration of waste - air emissions**

#### **D. Siting requirements for incinerators**

- Reducing the setbacks for the siting of incinerators to 250m for neighbouring residences and 500m for existing businesses, schools, hospitals or continuing care facilities.

### **Providing Comment on the Proposed Modifications**

Comments regarding the ministry's proposed intentions are being solicited and will be carefully considered in development of the regulation. Comments received will be treated with confidentiality by Ministry staff and contractors, however, comments you provide and information that identifies you as the source of those comments may be publicly available if a Freedom of Information request is made under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

1. **For establishments existing on or before September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007, replace the proposed numerical standards for the wastewater discharge for Category B facilities with the requirement for a 'properly functioning tile field'. The numerical standards will be provided in a guidance document and are not legal requirements.**

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding this modification?

2. **Provisions that Category B facilities that have 'properly functioning tile fields' existing on or before September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007 be authorized by the Code.**

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding this modification?

3. **Failure of the tile field would be shown by surfacing of the discharge or causing the groundwater table to be raised to the surface.**

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding this modification?

4. **New tile fields for subsurface discharge from Category B facilities would be required to be designed by a qualified professional and installed according to the design after September 30, 2007.**

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Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding this modification?

5. **Low volumes of slaughter wastewater may be land applied at an agronomic rate by a farmer.**

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding this modification?

6. **Reducing the setbacks for the siting of incinerators to 250m for neighbouring residences and 500m for existing businesses, schools, hospitals or continuing care facilities.**

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding this modification?

Responses may be returned to Cindy Bertram of C. Rankin & Associates who has been contracted to manage consultation comments, at:

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**Comments to the ministry should be made on or before June 16, 2007**

*Thank you once more for your time and consideration!*