

## **Sturgeon County Transfer Station(s) Information**

Transfer stations are designed to receive hauled waste. The Sturgeon County transfer station is in the W4 Sturgeon County Industrial Park, 102 Sturgeon Cr, 55202 SH 825.

Access is through a gate using a key FOB that opens the gate and records the truck. FOBs are assigned to track trucks individually and are to be used by that truck only as we bill based on axle. We cannot always confirm that haulers are being honest and not switching out FOBs when they use larger trucks which is why we need a better way of receiving hauled waste and having accurate measurement of what is being received. The station needs to be modernized and move away from billing by axle and instead have the loads metered through a method that would measure each load as it dumps. This method is also fair to the haulers and will most likely result in less mixed loads. Reporting the amount Sturgeon County accepts and discharges to the Alberta Capital Region Wastewater Commission (ACRWC) will also meet one of the requests from the ACRWC.

The gate at the station is operated by the key FOB that logs in the truck when the gate is opened by clicking on the FOB. At times this gate has failed to operate and remains open. During these times haulers access the station freely unloading without using the FOB. Sturgeon County has asked drivers to on their honour FOB in and report when the gate is stuck open. In the past two years, it is usually ACRWC staff that has called in when the gate is stuck open, seldom has it been a hauler. The result of this is haulers as well as anyone else can dump at the station and Sturgeon County would never know.

At present ACRWC bills Sturgeon County based on sampling done by ACRWC Source Control staff. Due to the present layout ACRWC is unable to sample by dropping a 24-hour sampler. ACRWC staff monitor the station by parking and collecting samples from trucks that do discharge during the period they sit and monitor. July 1, 2016 to Dec 31, 2016 the load based charges from ACRWC almost doubled. This is in part due to unfair billing from ACRWC with their sampling not being representative of what they are receiving as the samples are not 24-hour samples. ACRWC will visit the station for approximately 5 – 6 hours and collect discrete samples from trucks discharging building a composite sample and billing Sturgeon County as a 24-hour sample. Until true representative samples can be collected this value will not change. Sturgeon County is also under pressure from ACRWC to have updates in place by 2018.

### **RATES payable to ACRWC:**

July 1, 2016 – Dec 31, 2016 is **\$11961.00**

Jan 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016 is **\$7529.00**

July 1, 2015 – Dec 31, 2015 is **\$7211.00**

## **Upgrades:**

Waste manifest documents are required for each load prior to disposal summarizing the type of load and source of material being disposed.

A transfer station should have a drop off or mailbox slot for each manifest that haulers must leave after each load. Sturgeon County practice has been that haulers supply these at the end of each month. This practice has not been successful requiring follow up from Utilities requesting this paperwork from the haulers. Other manifests issues are haulers not recording all the information requested on the form. A better manifest would resolve this issue.

Additional space at this station for turning around as well as two discharge hookups would lessen time for haulers to spend at the station. Haulers have requested a 6 inch hook up that allows for faster discharge which helps during busy time. At present the station is not using the full lot and can expand to accommodate more traffic.

## **INFO on what a Transfer Station is and does:**

Sewage is a composite of liquid wastes associated with the use of water for drinking, food preparation, washing, hygiene, sanitation, or other domestic purpose. It does not include wastewater from industrial processes.

Non-septic Industrial Sump waste is liquid waste collected from car wash or garage sumps, specialized shops and industries such as engine or industrial equipment washing, car body and radiator shops, chemical manufacture or blending. Oil and grease must be separated from the waste before it is accepted. This is done by having a properly designed and well-maintained sump. This waste does not contain sanitary waste (liquids from toilets, sinks or showers). If this waste is non-hazardous upon separation the liquid waste can be disposed of at the Transfer Station (ACRWC acceptance must first be obtained). Solids need to be disposed into a landfill that accepts such waste. Moving forward manifests need to have ICI name to them and to confirm loads are meeting the standards and guidelines established and for follow up if the if the load is in violation. Discrete sampling should be performed at the station bi yearly for each ICI to confirm their waste is non-hazardous and ICI should be billed accordingly for this service.

As per the Alberta Government, Industrial Sump and Pit Waste industry practice, responsibility for proper sump waste management lies with the person responsible for the sump. Waste service companies who transport or accept the waste share this responsibility.

Transfer Stations can not accept hazardous waste streams from industrial, commercial, and residential customers.

Residential customers need to be educated and notified regarding what they are putting into their holding tank or septic. Haulers have complained that they have suspected loads of containing anti freeze, paint, solvent, or oil that has been denied by the customer when asked. A campaign notifying Sturgeon County residents of the appropriate timeline to clean out their tanks as some are not doing it for many years is a top recommendation. When tanks sit for many years the concentration becomes so dense for all the contaminants. When this load is eventually taken to the station Sturgeon County pays through the sampling process by ACRWC.

Unacceptable waste is:

- Corrosive Wastes
- Flammables
- Industrial Sludge
- Carbon
- Leachate
- Crude oil
- Car wash mud
- Sump sludge

*One litre of used oil can contaminate one million litres of water.*

### **LAND APPLICATION OF SEWAGE**

Land application of domestic wastewater in Alberta must be authorized receiving a letter of Authorization with a number. There are maximum and minimum allowed rates for casual and designated application. Casual means a site will receive only one application of wastewater a year and designated is for more than one application.

The *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, section 176 specifies that:

No person shall dispose of waste except

- a) at a waste management facility, or in a container the content of which will be taken to a waste management facility, that is the subject of the appropriate approval, registration or notice required under this Act, or
- b) in accordance with the written authorization of the Director.

**Table 3: Maximum Single and Annual Application Rates of Domestic Wastewater for Casual & Designated Application Sites When Tilled into Soil**

Pumpout type	Maximum Single and Annual Application Rates			
	Casual <sup>#</sup> Application Rates		Designated <sup>##</sup> Application Rates	
	Single Application	Annual Application	Single Application	Annual Application
Septic Tank	100m <sup>3</sup> /ha	Not allowed	100m <sup>3</sup> /ha	500m <sup>3</sup> /ha
Holding Tank	100m <sup>3</sup> /ha	Not allowed	100m <sup>3</sup> /ha	300m <sup>3</sup> /ha

<sup>#</sup> Casual application site means a site that receives only one application of domestic wastewater per year

<sup>##</sup> Designated application site means a site that receives more than one application of domestic wastewater per year

**Table 4: Maximum Single and Annual Application Rates of Domestic Wastewater for Casual & Designated Application Without Tilling into Soil**

Pumpout type	Maximum Single and Annual Application Rates			
	Casual <sup>#</sup> Application Rates		Designated <sup>##</sup> Application Rates	
	Single Application	Annual Application	Single Application	Annual Application
Septic Tank	50m <sup>3</sup> /ha	Not allowed	50m <sup>3</sup> /ha	250m <sup>3</sup> /ha
Holding Tank	50m <sup>3</sup> /ha	Not allowed	50m <sup>3</sup> /ha	150m <sup>3</sup> /ha

<sup>#</sup> Casual application site means a site that receives only one application of domestic wastewater per year

<sup>##</sup> Designated application site means a site that receives more than one application of domestic wastewater per year

- The disposer shall only apply domestic wastewater by injection or surface application
- If surface application is employed, the disposer shall till the land within 48 hours of the surface application to incorporate the domestic wastewater with the surface soil material
- If no tilling into the soil occurs, the application rates shall be reduced as per Table 4 and the disposer shall pick up unsightly materials from site within 48 hours

After application of domestic wastewater, the land **may only be used** for the production of forages, oil seeds, small grains, trees and commercial sod. After application of domestic wastewater, the land **shall NOT be used** for the production of root crops, vegetable and fruit crops, or dairy farming pasturing **within three years** of the application of the domestic wastewater.

In general, spreading biosolids to land is permitted during spring, summer, and fall and is not permitted on ground which is ice-covered, snow-covered, or frozen. Exceptions might be made when there is a summer or fall snowfall or when unseasonal cold weather freezes the surface layer of soil. Regardless of the time of year, land spreading will be approved as long as incorporation of surface applied biosolids is possible.

**Acceptable Crops<sup>1</sup>**Forages<sup>2</sup>

Oil seed crops

Small grains<sup>3</sup>

Dried peas and beans

Commercial sod

Trees

**Unacceptable Crops**

Root crops

Fresh vegetables and fruits

Tobacco

Dairy pasture land

## **Illegal dumping hotline 1-800-222-6514.**

Investigators will fine according to how detrimental the incident/incidents are.

This information may not be known by Sturgeon County residents and those that want to keep Sturgeon County beautiful and our lands in best condition and not destroyed will report these contraventions when seen if we educated them what to look for.

A Sturgeon County program moving forward that notifies residents that are not connected to the sanitary sewer and have holding tanks or septic systems regarding the legalities if illegal disposal of their sewage takes place would be good.

***It has been reported that there are haulers disposing of waste in the unlawful locations such as farmers fields as well as ditches in Sturgeon County.***