

# Environmental Programs

## Information for YESAA Proponents

In 2005 the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act* (YESAA) established an environmental assessment regime for a significant number of different types of projects. During the assessment process, the public and all levels of government are able to submit project-specific comments and to suggest ways to mitigate any potential negative environmental and/or socio-economic effects. These comments and suggestions are taken into consideration by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board in formulating their recommendations for the project.

In addition to suggested mitigations and project-specific comments, there are often other requirements, such as the need to obtain different permits under the *Environment Act*, of which project proponents should be aware. For example, mining proponents should be aware that the required land use permit does not take the place of *Environment Act* permits where they are required. This info sheet outlines some general information about environmental protection requirements that may affect proponents undertaking various activities in the Yukon.

### Solid Waste Management

Proponents will require a permit under the *Solid Waste Regulations* to bury garbage or the ash of burned garbage on site. Permits under the *Air Emissions Regulations* are also required if more than 5kg of garbage is to be burned or incinerated per day. Where both permits are required, they will be included in the same document. Permits are not required to remove garbage from the site to a permitted public solid waste disposal facility, but proponents must confirm in advance with the operator of that facility that their garbage will be accepted. Not all facilities are able to accept large amounts of waste, and can choose to accept or reject certain types of waste. Confirmation of appropriate arrangements must be provided to the Environmental Programs Branch.

Whether or not garbage is to be disposed of on site, all garbage stored outdoors must be stored in bear-proof containers, and an electric fence must surround all outdoor storage, handling and disposal areas (including burial pits and incinerators) to ensure that garbage is not accessible to wildlife. There is no substitute for prevention of human-wildlife contact.

The burning of brush or untreated wood waste does not require a solid waste permit, as long as the wood/brush is not mixed with other materials. Treated wood cannot be burned or incinerated; it must be buried at an approved disposal facility.

### Fuel Storage

Permits under the *Storage Tank Regulations* are required for the installation, operation, decommissioning or abandonment of storage tank system(s) with a capacity of 4,000L or more of fuel. Contact the Fire Marshal's Office for an application form.

## Special Waste Management

A permit under the *Special Waste Regulation* is required if the proponent will be generating, storing, handling, transporting or disposing of any type of special waste, including waste oil, waste fuel, waste solvents, waste batteries, etc., in amounts that exceed the thresholds in the regulations. Common instances where permits are required include the generation, storage and/or transport of:

- more than 5L of fuel that is not to be used for its original intended purpose, in a 30-day period;
- more than 20L of waste oil in a 30-day period; and
- one or more vehicle batteries (as these are generally heavier than 5kg).

The thresholds for permits are cumulative – for example, the generation of 4L of waste fuel and 4L of waste solvents within a 30 day period would require a special waste permit. However, different types of wastes must always be stored separately to make the wastes easier (and cheaper) to dispose. For help in determining whether something is a special waste, contact the Environmental Programs Branch.

Transportation of special wastes requires manifests (shipping documents) noting the permit numbers of the generator, transporter and receiving location. It is the proponent's responsibility to ensure that these manifests are filled out and all parties are appropriately permitted. Approval from the receiving location should be confirmed in advance of shipment as not all facilities will necessarily agree to accept a given load of wastes, or are permitted to do so. Checking first could help reduce frustration and cost later.

Used sorbent pads and rags saturated with special wastes should be wrung out and/or drained in appropriate containers (separate for each type of special waste) until they do not drip. Once the drainage has occurred, these materials can be disposed with regular solid waste, and the collected liquid can be disposed as special waste.

## Spills

All spills must be reported to the local Conservation Officer or to the 24-hour **Spills Line** at **(867) 667-7244 (collect calls are accepted)**. All spills that either exceed the reporting thresholds in the *Spills Regulations*, or those that are abnormal in quantity or quality in light of all the circumstances, must be reported. Reporting **all** spills meets a proponent's obligation to report under section 133 of the Environment Act, and Environment Yukon encourages this reporting.

All spills must be assessed and remediated in accordance with the *Contaminated Sites Regulation* and its protocols and standards, including proper delineation of the affected area and appropriate confirmatory sampling to demonstrate that the chosen remedial option has been effective.

In the event of a spill, the proponent may require one or more permits under the *Contaminated Sites Regulation* to allow for the remediation of contaminated soil or water. Permits are required in the following common situations:

- before moving contaminated material off site;
- before treating contaminated material (soil or water) on site in a Land Treatment Facility; and
- before applying risk management or using risk-based standards for clean-up.

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### For more information on the Environment Act and its regulations, please contact:

Environmental Programs Branch (V-8)  
Environment Yukon  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Phone: (867) 667-5683  
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0408 extension 5683  
Fax: (867) 393-6205  
email: [envprot@gov.yk.ca](mailto:envprot@gov.yk.ca)

Copies of Yukon regulations may be viewed online at [www.env.gov.yk.ca/monitoringenvironment/](http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/monitoringenvironment/) under the 'Standards and Approvals' section, or at any Yukon Public Library, territorial agent, territorial representative or regional services office. You may purchase copies at the Inquiry Centre, Yukon Government Administration Building, 2071-2nd Avenue in Whitehorse, or by mail from the Subscriptions Clerk, Yukon Government Queen's Printer, Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6 (phone (867) 667-5783 or toll free 1-800-661-0408 extension 5783).

