

# Environmental Public Health and Your Project



Embarking on a project in the territory? Planning to temporarily use or occupy Yukon land?

Environmental Health Services (EHS) can help you comply with the *Public Health and Safety Act* whether you are planning a mining, wilderness tourism or exploration camp, lodge or any other use of public land for residential or agricultural purposes in Yukon.

Throughout your planning, an Environmental Health Officer will work with you. Together, you will ensure that human health and safety are protected through the prevention and suppression of disease in drinking water, sewage disposal, food services, accommodation and camp sanitation.

## What approvals do I need?

Each activity and situation may involve a different combination of regulations. Depending on your project and its unique circumstances, you may be required to comply with the *Public Health and Safety Act* and any of its applicable regulations.

## The following information is for camps only:

### ► **Drinking Water**

Drinking water in a camp can come from a number of sources such as wells, lakes, and streams or may be bottled. Water from surface sources requires treatment.

Water that is to be used for consumption, food preparation and hygiene must meet the quality outlined in the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*.

### ► **Sewage Disposal**

Sewage disposal systems for your camp may include pit privies, septic systems, sewage holding tanks, lagoons and package treatment plants.

Other methods of sewage disposal must be approved by an Environmental Health Officer prior to installation.

Your camp's sewage disposal system must be designed, installed and operated in accordance with the *Sewage Disposal Systems Regulation* and must be located so as not to contaminate its surroundings or pose a risk to human health.

No matter what your circumstances — and especially if your camp is remote — please contact an Environmental Health Officer to help you determine your permitting requirements.

### ► **Food Services**

Correct food transportation, storage, preparation and service — especially to and in remote sites — is key to the preservation of human health.

Your camp must provide adequate space for food storage and preparation, adequate refrigeration and freezer storage space and it is recommended that all staff have *Food Safe* training.

When planning your camp, it is recommended that you refer to the *Camp Sanitation Regulations* and the *Food Safety Code of Practice* and detail your kitchen and food services so that an Environmental Health Officer can determine their adequacy.

## ► Accommodations

In the course of your planning, you will also be requested to describe your facility's living accommodations, such as:

- The maximum number of people who will be living in the camp at any one time.
- The shower and laundry facilities if applicable, and sleeping quarters.
- The number of people and cubic feet per room in the sleeping quarters.

## ► Camp Sanitation

Environmental Health Services requires that the condition of your camp be sanitary and maintained in accordance with the *Camp Sanitation Regulations* and *Public Health Regulations*.

## Other things to consider...

In terms of solid waste disposal (garbage), an Environmental Health Officer will refer you to the *Solid Waste Disposal Guidelines* and the Department of Environment.

Regarding land use in Yukon, the Government of Yukon Land Management Branch will help verify ownership in the territory and advise you of any authorizations required.

## Contact

For more information and guidance as you prepare to establish your camp facility in the territory, please contact:

► **Environmental Health Services**

Health and Social Services

Government of Yukon

2 Hospital Road Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 3H8

867-667-8391 or 1-800-661-0408, ext. 8391

[www.hss.gov.yk.ca/environmental.php](http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/environmental.php)

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