
Part 1: Policy Matters to Brownfield Redevelopment - Alberta's Guide to Excluding the Domestic Use Aquifer based on Municipal Bylaws

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Norman Sawatsky, Contaminated Sites Policy Specialist
Chris Chalk, Contaminant Hydrogeologist
Environment and Protected Areas



Alberta

What is the Guide and why is it useful?

- Alberta published the 'Guide to Excluding the Domestic Use Aquifer (DUA) Based on Municipal Bylaws' in August 2022.
- Guide describes how the DUA can be excluded from remediation if evidence indicates there is not a risk to human health or the environment at a particular location.
- Following the Guide enables site closure.

How is the Guide used?

- Municipalities are to confirm they have a bylaw in place that restricts access to groundwater within municipal boundaries.
- Proponents gather the necessary technical data and prepare DUA exclusion application.
- Proponents confirm the municipality's interpretation of the bylaw.
- Regulator reviews the application and issues a decision.

How is the Guide used?

- The Guide recognizes that simple models have limits and establishes boundary conditions to ensure low risk
 - Solubility Limit (10 g/L)
 - 300 metre distance to receptors (FAL, existing well, municipal boundary)
 - Maximum size of free product zone (100 m²)

Who wrote the Guide?

- Environment and Protected Areas is responsible for policy and regulating sites, but the Guide was written by a multi-stakeholder team.
- This process was different and successful because it was led by multiple stakeholders interested in making a difference in this field.

Who wrote the Guide?

- Engagement took place between June 2020 - August 2021 with working group members:
 - Alberta Municipalities;
 - Rural Municipalities of Alberta;
 - Canadian Fuels Association;
 - Alberta Energy Regulator; and
 - consultants

Impact of the Guide?

- Lessons learned after two years will be the focus of Part 2: Policy Implementation and Brownfield Case Studies - Panel Discussion