

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

A Quick Update on Nutrient Management

VOLUME NO. 1, ISSUE NO. 7 September 2008

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PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT REGULATION

**By: Thel Simpson, Education Coordinator &
Phyllis MacMaster, Environmental Specialist**

The Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Environment are proposing amendments to the General Nutrient Management Regulation. The proposed change is to extend the phase-in dates for some NASM (Non Agricultural Source Materials) generators and receivers required to have approved Nutrient Management Strategies and Plans. This proposal will affect stakeholders involved in the generation, transport or land application of NASM.

Amendments Proposed:

1. Extend the phase-in date by one year (to December 31, 2009) for NASM generators who currently have to comply with regulation requirements to have a Nutrient Management Strategy by December 31, 2008.
2. Extend the period (to December 31, 2009) for phased-in farms (farms required to have a Nutrient Management Strategy between 5 and 300 Nutrient Units) to apply NASM to agricultural lands under a Certificate of Approval without the need to have a separate Nutrient Management Plan.

Note: If any part of a phased-in farm is located within 100 metres of a municipal well, the operation is already required to have a Nutrient Management Plan and this extension does not apply.

The two ministries are developing a single regulatory framework for the management of NASM. Currently, stakeholders such as haulers, brokers, land applicators and receivers of NASM may be subject to overlapping requirements under Part V of the Environmental Protection Act and the General Nutrient Management Regulation.

These two amendments allow the ministries to draft regulations and implement revised training and certification for stakeholders.

To review the proposal, please go to the Environmental Bill of Rights registry at www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/. Insert file number 010-3404 in the search box. Public comments are accepted for a 45-day period. The amendments are posted for public comment until September 19, 2008.

All comments will be considered in the decision making process.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE STORAGE LOCATION OR DESIGN CHANGES AFTER APPROVAL

By: Jacqui Laporte, Environmental Specialist & Jim Arnold, Environmental Engineer

The Regulation and the Nutrient Management Protocol require that design and review of construction of new nutrient storage facilities, including expansions and alterations, be conducted by a professional engineer. The exceptions to this requirement are permanent solid nutrient storage facilities as described in s. 62(2). Several nutrient management strategies have been submitted to OMAFRA for approval that have changed the storage facility's design or location upon building. Any changes to a project must comply with the regulation, and any changes that require re-engineering of storage components not in the original strategy, must be accompanied by a revised Engineering Commitment Certificate.

If the location or the design changes, then an amendment to the NMS must be made prior to construction. The Engineer's Commitment Certificate may also need to be revised to reflect the engineering requirements for the new project. The local building official may request confirmation from OMAFRA that the changes are compliant with the regulation. The request for amendment of the approval must include a new site sketch, showing the location and dimensions of the facility, and an Engineering Commitment Certificate reflecting the engineering requirements for the revised project. It may also include a new MSTORE printout, if the design changes affect the manure quantity, nutrient values or storage dimensions. It is absolutely critical that the engineers who signed the original Engineer's Commitment Certificate are aware of any proposed changes in design or location.

The Fact Sheet entitled Building Permit Requirements For Livestock Operations summarizes the requirements for construction of permanent nutrient storage facilities. This is an excellent resource to provide to producers beginning the construction process. The Fact Sheet can be found here <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/facts/07-063.htm>

NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR YOU

**By: Phyllis MacMaster, Environmental Specialist and
Matt Wilson, Environmental Specialist**

New Factsheet: Livestock Access to Watercourses

One of the challenges associated with grazing livestock is unrestricted access to watercourses. The new Factsheet entitled "Livestock Access to Watercourses" outlines some strategies farmers can use to protect watercourses from erosion or contamination by drinking animals. The Factsheet reviews some best management practices such as fencing, positioning of shade, salt and mineral, alternative watering sources and grazing management plans.

With heightened public awareness of the impact of livestock on water quality it will be an important resource for you. Order the Factsheet "Livestock Access to Watercourses" (Order Number #08-013) on line at www.publications.serviceontario.ca or by calling the toll free across Canada number 1-800-668-9938.

New Info sheet: Ontario Farm Inspections: results above standards

You will all be familiar with the info sheet entitled "What to expect when an Agricultural Environmental Officer inspects your farm". It provides farmers with an overview of the inspection process and tips for preparing for their inspection. The new info sheet "Ontario Farm Inspections: results above standards" summarizes the results from MOE's 2007 inspections. This report shows that while the majority of farms are complying with the Nutrient Management Act, many are going beyond the minimum requirements. You can find both documents on our website at: www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/nm/approval.html

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT EXTENDS EFP EQUIVALENCY FOR FARMER CERTIFICATION

By: Phyllis MacMaster, Environmental Specialist

OMAFRA Education and Training Unit extended the option of an Environmental Farm Plan for Farmers seeking certification under the Nutrient Management Regulation. Farmers completing a 3rd Edition EFP workshop receive a credit towards their training. In addition to the workshop, farmers provide a copy of the Peer Review Committee Letter and write a quiz. Farmers can use the EFP option until January 1, 2009 to replace the Introduction to Nutrient Management Course.

Completing the Regulations and Protocol Course is another training requirement. This course requires two day commitment in a classroom setting. You can also register for the On Line Version and complete it on your own time schedule.

Once you complete these two training requirements, you apply to obtain your Agricultural Operations Planning Certificate (AOPC). Farm operators need this certificate to prepare their own Nutrient Management Strategy or Plan. AOPC certificates are valid for five years.

For more information on Nutrient Management courses including the schedules, check the website at www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/nm/cert/training.htm. To register call the Nutrient Management Information Line at 1-866-242-4460.

FIELD POCKET GUIDE SURVEY

By: Arlene Robertson, Education Coordinator

OMAFRA's *Field Pocket Guide* was introduced as a practical way to record crop production activities to assist farmers in achieving economically feasible and environmentally responsible management of soils, water, air, crops and livestock. It contains a variety of record keeping pages and some handy conversions and calculations. The *Field Pocket Guide* is encased in a weather-resistant cover to keep it protected while being used in the field, carried in a pocket or stored in the tractor.

Since 2004, over 25,000 copies have been distributed, free of charge, to producers throughout Ontario to assist them with their record keeping. But we are out of stock!

We need your comments to tell us what you like, dislike and would like to see improved in the book. Please go to our online survey <http://www.surveymonkey.com/fieldpocketguide> and tell us what you think.

If you provide your contact information, your name will be entered into a draw for a \$50 Canadian Tire Gift card (draw to take place on October 15, 2008). Survey closes October 10, 2008.

TIP FROM APPROVALS

By: Jim Arnold , Environmental Engineer & Phyllis MacMaster, Environmental Specialist

Poultry Broiler Barns

As you likely know, broiler barns may be single or multiple story, which means the floor area essentially doubles or triples as a result. When completing sketches, be sure to indicate the number of floors for these barns. This will reduce confusion on the part of the reviewer and speed the approval process.

With only a one-floor dimension on the sketch, the reviewer must contact you to determine the number of floors. Only then is the reviewer able to reconcile this with the barn capacity while referencing the recommended housing capacity guidelines. You could also make a comment in the overview when describing the buildings that the barn is a high-rise barn and indicate the number of floors.

This concept also applies to other livestock barns where animals are housed on a second floor. Make a notation on the sketch about the livestock housed on the second floor and show the dimensions of this area. Using dotted lines or different colour are effective ways to denote these areas.

Sketches

Some consultants submit farmstead sketches where the farm buildings are identified by colour on a legend. These sketch are very useful as the original but when the sketches are photocopied as part of the Record of Approval, the colours can no longer be used to identify the different structures. When using colours to identify farm buildings also show the building names along with the dimensions on the sketch i.e. hog barn. As well light colours such yellow do not photocopy well. If in doubt make a photocopy of your sketch before you submit the Nutrient Management Strategy for approval.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT RECERTIFICATION PROCESS

**By: Samantha Millar Quinlan, Marketing & Communications &
Phyllis MacMaster, Environmental Specialist**

You may know that the first Nutrient Management Consultant Certificates (Agricultural Operations Strategy Plan Development Certificates) come up for renewal in September 2009. Consultants should check their certificates for the expiry date.

The regulations have three criteria for renewing certificates:

1. Write and pass an exam
2. Pay a fee to write the exam
3. Existing certificates must be in good standing and not have expired, been revoked or suspended.

The Environmental Management Branch e-mailed and/or mailed a post card to all consultants outlining the process to renew their certificate.

The process:

1. Apply for a renewal certificate at least three months in advance of the expiry date
2. Contact the Nutrient Management Information Line 1-866-242-4460 for a Study Guide Package (available fall 2008)
3. Write the exam and pay \$150 fee
4. After notification you have passed the exam, submit an application for recertification.

The exam is multiple-choice and tests your knowledge and understanding of the regulations and preparing NMS and NMP. Contact the Nutrient Management Information Line (number listed above) to arrange for an individually proctored session at a local OMAFRA Resource Centre.

If your certificate expires before you are recertified you will have to start the certification process over again. Avoid interruptions and be sure to check your certificate well in advance of its expiry date.

Note: If you did not receive the postcard, please contact us to ensure contact information is up to date. Call Ashley Brander 519-826-6374 or e-mail ashley.brander@ontario.ca to verify your mailing address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 16-20, 2008 International Plowing Match—Teeswater

September 19, 2008 Last day for comments on Proposed Amendment to NM Regulation

December 1, 2008 NMS submissions must use NMAN 2.0.2 or the Nutrient Management Strategy Application Form

Nutrient Management Consultant Update Meetings:

February 12, 2009 NM Consultant Meeting Guelph

February 19, 2009 NM Consultant Meeting London

February 26, 2009 NM Consultants Meeting Kemptville

- All consultant update meetings are from 9 am—5pm
- A detailed agenda will be shared with you through this newsletter.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have questions? Need more information? Have a comment about what you'd like to see in the next issue? Please contact your area Environmental Specialist at:

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Newsletter on Line:
www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/nm/newsletter/emn.htm