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May 1, 2015

County of St. Paul Council  
Attn: Phyllis Corbiere  
5015 49 Avenue, St. Paul, AB T0A 3A4

Dear County Council:

Re: Proposed Treatment Mound Installation – Lot 10, Block 1, Plan 8122184  
SW 25-57-10-W4, Lower Therrien Lake (Poirier Subdivision)  
Acres: 1.17

We are writing to respectfully request your consideration and permission to install a Treatment Mound Disposal System for Residential use on our property as shown on the attached drawing.

We purchased the property in 2010 with the intention of building our dream home and put off the actual building in 2013/2014 to ensure our financial situation was secure. The land was purchased prior to the implementation of the new regulations indicating all parcels fronting onto lakes, only self-contained sewage systems will be permitted to be installed.

We had originally requested consideration for installation of a disposal field system; however, after doing further research and speaking directly with the Government of Alberta, Field Technical Services department, we would like to amend our request to that of a Treatment Mound Disposal Field.

We would like your consideration to approve a Treatment Mound Disposal System based in part on the following rationale:

1. Based on the proposed placement of the mound system and the shape of the lot, there would be no concerns with effluent going into the lake or on adjacent properties.
2. As shown on the attached diagram we have a minimal "lakefront" property portion of 12 meters.
3. The slope of our land is such that it creates almost a "bowl" effect. The property does not slope towards the lake.
4. The environmental reserve area is exceptionally large, resulting in our property line starting approximately 100 meters from the waters' edge. The proposed Treatment Mound would be approximately an additional 85 meters from the lake front property line. This would be a total of approximately 185 meters from the lake front.

5. Our request meets the requirements the Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice 2009, which indicates that a soil-based treatment system shall be located not less than 90 meters from the shore of a lake (see attached). Please note that we have also spoken with the Government of Alberta, Field Technical Services to ensure that our interpretation of the requirements is correct. The installation of the system would also be completed by a certified installer and all required permit applications will be completed.
6. It may be pertinent to note that many other community land use provisions reference a distance from the lake restriction as opposed to "parcels fronting" onto named lakes. The current wording of the regulation would allow other properties in our area to put in sewage disposal fields closer to the lake than what we are proposing simply because they are not considered lake front property.

We have obtained quotes for pump out costs of a regular residential home. The expense is staggering, at approximately \$10,000 per year, which is almost double our estimate for annual county property tax. The initial holding tank installation fee is of course also higher (estimated at \$40,000).

We have spoken with some of our neighbors in the area to confirm that they have existing field and mound systems, many of which are closer to the lake than our proposed development. We hope that you will find the proposed location of treatment mound acceptable.

We understand the need for protection of our lakes and regulations for sewage disposal sites. We are certainly wanting to do our part in ensuring the lake is safe for enjoyment by our community now and in years to come. We strongly believe that our proposed request will not affect the lake and all setback requirements would be met.

We look forward to meeting with you on May 12, 2015 to discuss any further questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Kelven & Andrea Hall



**Question:** What are the clearance requirements for disposal fields, treatment mounds, open discharge systems, lagoons, septic tanks, holding tanks and privies for private sewage disposal?

**Answer:** The minimum clearance requirements are as follows: (from current 2009 Standard of Practice (SOP))

<b>Distance From/To</b>	<b>Property Line</b>	<b>Water Source</b>	<b>Water Course * Article 2.1.2.4</b>	<b>Building with Basement, Cellar or Crawl Space</b>	<b>Building without Basement, Cellar or Crawl Space</b>	<b>Building with permanent foundation without basement, cellar or crawl space</b>	<b>Building without permanent foundation</b>	<b>** Building</b>	<b>Septic Tanks</b>
<b>Holding Tanks</b>	1 m (3.25 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	-	-	-	-	1 m (3.25 ft)	-
<b>Septic Tanks</b>	1 m (3.25 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	-	-	-	-	1 m (3.25 ft)	-
<b>Effluent Tanks</b>	1 m (3.25 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	-	-	-	-	1 m (3.25 ft)	-
<b>Settling Tanks</b>	Refer to 2009 SOP 6.2.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Disposal Fields</b>	1.5 m (5 ft)	15 m (50 ft)	* 15 m (50 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	-	5 m (17 ft)	1 m (3.25 ft)	-	5 m (17 ft)
<b>Treatment Mounds</b>	3 m (10 ft)	15 m (50 ft)	* 15 m (50 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	-	-	-	3 m (10 ft)
<b>Drip Dispersal and Irrigation</b>	Refer to 2009 SOP 8.5.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Open Discharge Systems</b>	90 m (300 ft)	50 m (165 ft)	* 45 m (150 ft)	-	-	-	-	45 m (150 ft)	-
<b>Lagoon serving a single family dwelling or duplex</b>	30 m (100 ft)	100 m (330 ft)	90 m (300 ft)	-	-	-	-	45 m (150 ft)	-
<b>Lagoon serving other than a single family dwelling or duplex</b>	30 m (100 ft) 90 m (300 ft) from a numbered primary or secondary road	100 m (330 ft)	90 m (300 ft)	-	-	-	-	90 m (300 ft)	-
<b>Privies-Earthen</b>	5 m (17 ft)	15 m (50 ft)	15 m (50 ft)	-	-	-	-	6 m (20 ft) (food prep)	-
<b>Privies-Tank</b>	5 m (17 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	-	-	-	-	6 m (20 ft) (food prep)	-



<i>Distance From/To</i>	<i>Property Line</i>	<i>Water Source</i>	<i>Water Course * Article 2.1.2.4</i>	<i>Building with Basement, Cellar or Crawl Space</i>	<i>Building without Basement, Cellar or Crawl Space</i>	<i>Building with permanent foundation without basement, cellar or crawl space</i>	<i>Building without permanent foundation</i>	<i>** Building</i>	<i>Septic Tanks</i>
<b>Packaged Sewage Treatment Plants</b>	Refer to 2009 SOP 5.2.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sand Filters</b>	1 m (3.25 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	-	-	-	-	1 m (3.25 ft)	-
<b>Gravel Filters</b>	Refer to 2009 SOP 5.4.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Please reference the **Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice 2009** for complete design, installation, and material requirements.

**\* Article 2.1.2.4 Separation from Specific Surface Waters**

1) The soil-based treatment component of an on-site wastewater treatment system shall be located not less than 90 m (300 ft.) from the shore of a lake, river, stream, or creek.

2) Notwithstanding the requirements of Sentence (1), where a principal building or other development feature is situated between the soil-based treatment component and a lake, river, stream, or creek, such that a failure of the system causing effluent on the ground surface will be obvious and create an undesirable impact on the owner, the distance may be reduced to the minimum distance requirements set out in this Standard for the particular type of treatment system being used.

**\*\* Building** means any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy.

*References:*

- Private Sewage Disposal Systems Regulation AR 229/97 Consolidated up to 264/2009
- Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice 2009

**Government  
of Alberta** 

March 25, 2009  
Field Technical Services  
Telephone 1-866-421-6929  
E-mail: [safety.services@gov.ab.ca](mailto:safety.services@gov.ab.ca)



