

Overview of Municipal Liquid Waste and Liquid Waste Management Plans

For the Okanagan Basin Water Board
August 8, 2024

Presented by Cassandra Counce, Director
Communities, IPM and AgriFood

Authorizations and Remediation Branch • Environmental Protection Division

Overview

- Sewage management overview
 - Context in ENV
 - Regulatory framework
 - Benefits of a Liquid Waste Management Plan

- Snapshot of the Okanagan
 - Summary of authorizations



Photo: Okanagan Falls (2022)

Organizational Context

Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy

Environmental Protection Division

- Provincial policy, legislation and regulation

Environmental Standards Branch



- Monitoring, assessment & analysis

Environmental Monitoring & Analysis Branch



- Inspections, compliance assessment and enforcement

Compliance & Env Enforcement Branch



- Manage the full life cycle of authorizations for waste discharges and remediation

Authorizations & Remediation Branch



- Emergency response

Environmental Emergencies Branch



- Support for the Division operations

Shared & Strategic Divisional Services



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Shared & Strategic Divisional Services



Waste discharge authorizations for municipal & private sewage systems, municipal landfills, composting, agriculture, and food production facilities, and Integrated Pest Management Authorizations

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Communities, IPM & AgriFood Authorizations



Industrial Waste Authorizations

Communities, IPM & AgriFood

Mining Authorizations

SE Coal Mining

Extended Producer Responsibility

Site Remediation

Integrated Services

Sewage Management in BC

Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy

- Municipal Wastewater Regulation under the *Environmental Management Act*

Generally speaking...

- Big systems or combination systems with flows equal to or greater than 22.7 m³/day
- Most are owned and operated by municipalities, regional governments. Some are owned by developers or stratas.

Health Authorities (i.e. Interior Health)

- Sewerage System Regulation under the *Public Health Act*

Generally speaking...

- Small domestic systems
- Onsite sewage systems serving a single dwelling
- A combination of smaller systems with domestic flows less than 22.7 m³/day

Liquid Waste Management Planning

INTERIM GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANS



Ministry of
Environment

Revised Edition | July 2011



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

Regulatory Framework

The *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) Part 3 allows local governments to develop a Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) for approval by the Minister.

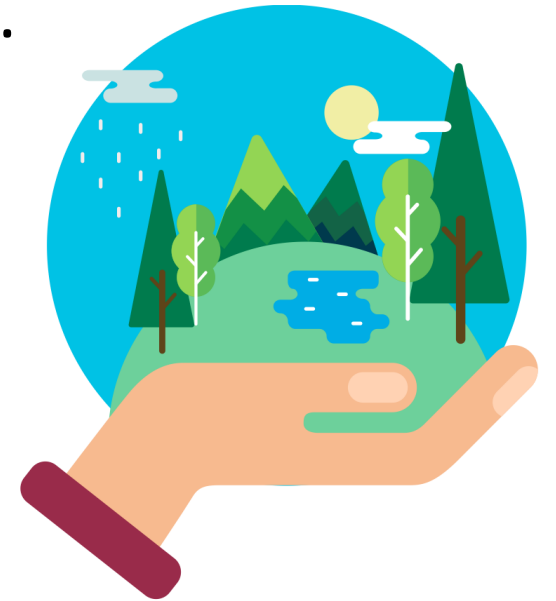
Other regulations that must also be considered under EMA:

- Waste Discharge Regulation
- Organic Matter Recycling Regulation
- Municipal Wastewater Regulation

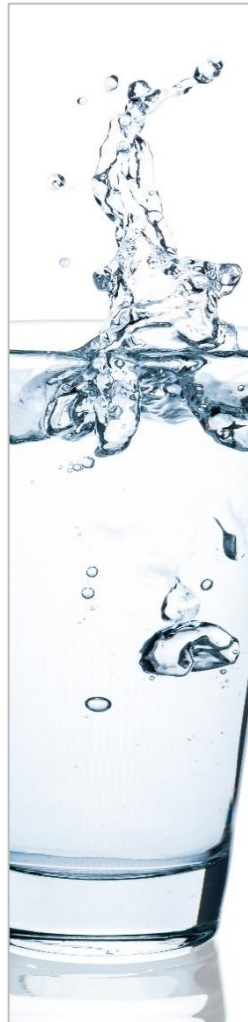
LWMP Objectives

The two primary objectives for LWMPs are:

- Protect public health and the environment.
- Properly consult the public and Indigenous Nations.



Additional LWMP objectives



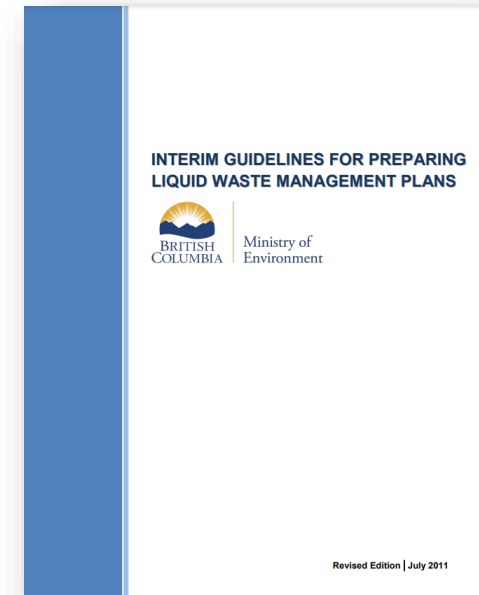
How to get started

Create a new plan or amend one

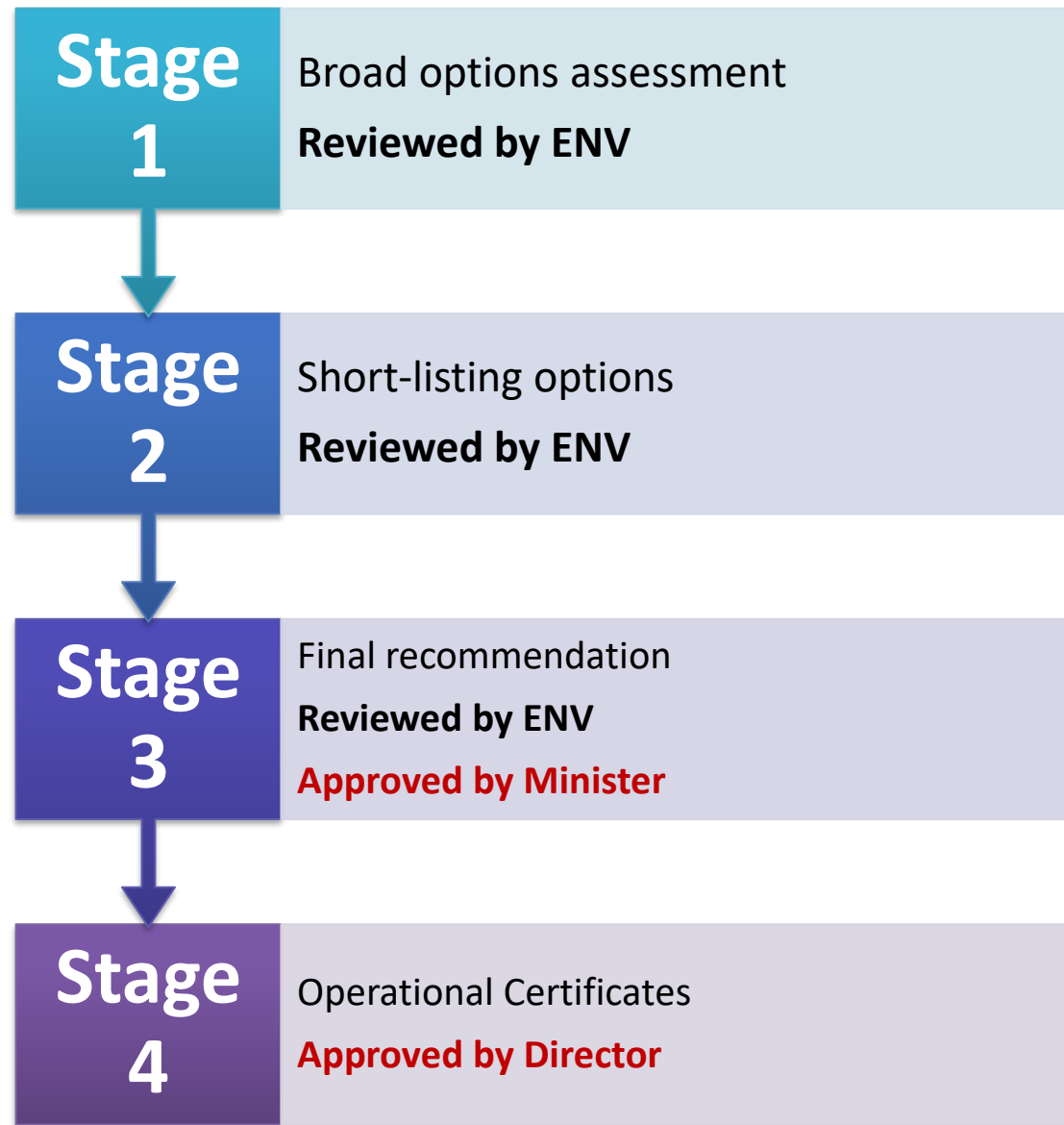
- Liquid Waste Management Planning Guide
- A LWMP is initiated with a resolution being passed by the local government and formal notice is provided to the Ministry.

This can be submitted to the EMA-delegated director

- Cassandra Caunce
- Liz Archibald
- Both can be reached via envcia@gov.bc.ca

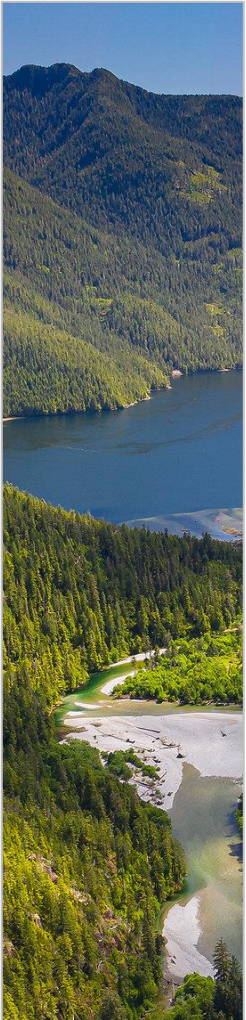


LWMP Development Overview



LWMP Stages 1 and 2

- Once the LWMP notice to the director is received, the Ministry will support you by:
 - Reviewing the completed scope of work that is submitted to the director for review at the beginning of each stage
 - Reviewing the final report at the end of each phase that is submitted to the director for review before proceeding to the next one.
- Sometimes Stage 1 and 2 are combined into a single “step”



LWMP Stage 3

- Cost estimates for capital works, maintenance, and tax burden are provided with sufficient detail.
- It is often necessary for local government to complete environmental impact studies.
- The final plan **must include Class B cost estimates** to mitigate cost increases between plan approval and enactment.



Key Plan Component

Public Consultation



- EMA section 27(2) states that a Minister may not approve a plan unless the minister is satisfied that there has been adequate public review and consultation
- Public review occurs through advisory committees, public meetings, and a variety of engagement tools.
- The adequacy of public consultation is reviewed by ENV staff at each stage.

Key Plan Component

Indigenous Consultation



Although the duty to consult rests with the Province, local governments are expected to engage Indigenous Nations throughout the entire planning process



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

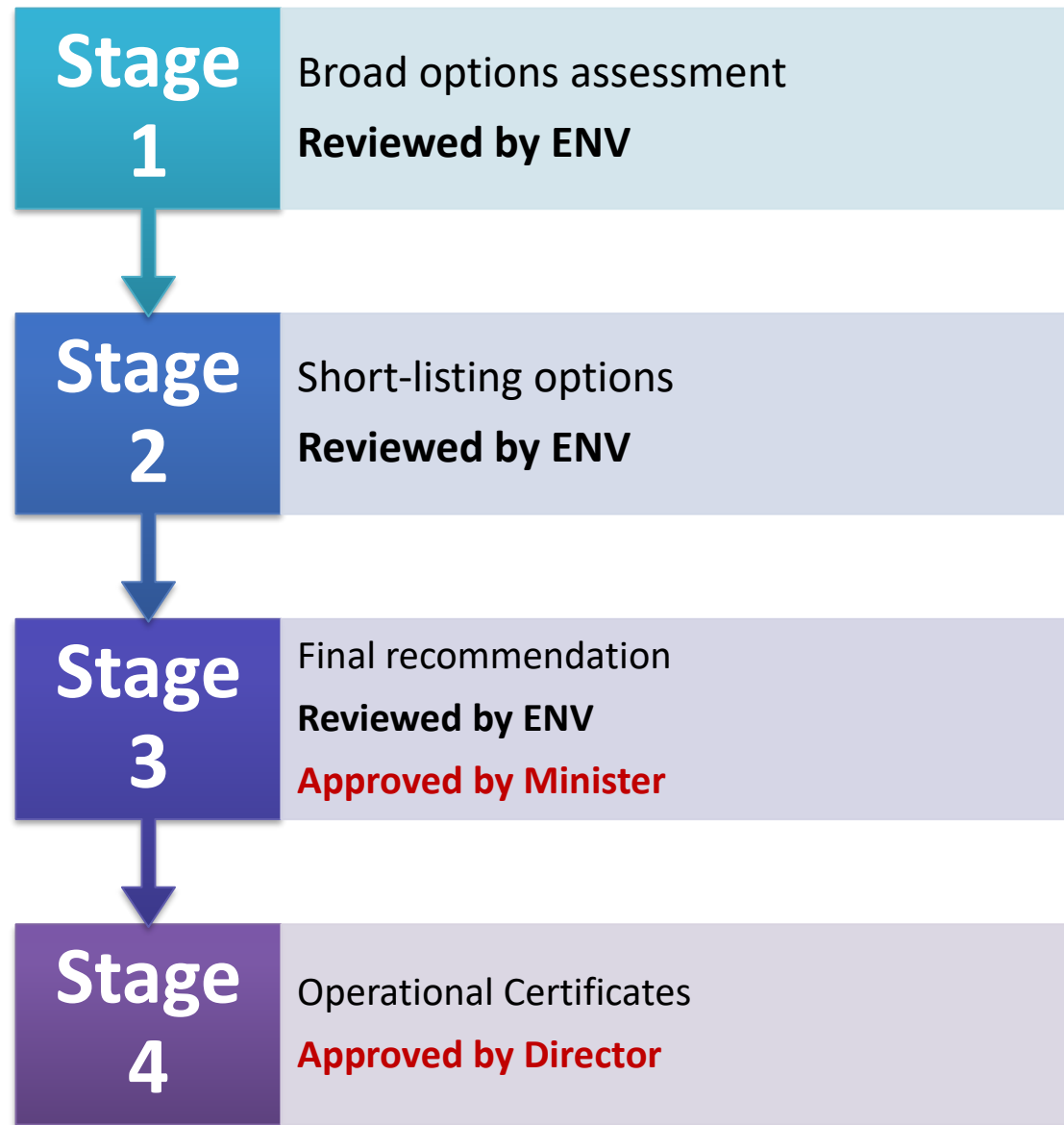
Ministry of
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Plan Approval

- The Stage 3 Plan is submitted to the Minister.
- Once an LWMP is approved by the Minister, Local Governments are expected to review their plans within 5-10 years and provide regular status updates on the commitments.



LWMP Development Overview



Benefits to Local Governments

- The requirement for elector assent to incur debt to finance municipal infrastructure under the Community Charter is waived.
- The *Environmental Assessment Act* exemption for projects that are completed under an approved LWMP.
- Opportunities to review and address any potential problem areas (i.e. failing on-site systems or new developments).
- Can be used to support Official Community Plan objectives.



Benefits to Local Governments

- Specific bylaws can be developed as part of the process to address source control issues or provide oversight over onsite systems.
- Offers a single planning process to work with multiple stakeholders.
- Opportunity to implement a circular economy to reclaim municipal effluent and biosolids and treat them as a resource instead of a waste.
- Build relationships with local Indigenous Nations

Snapshot of the Okanagan

New plans in development

Township of Spallumcheen	Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Naramata
Stage 1 Pending Initiation	Stage 2 In Progress

Plans under amendment

City of Penticton	City of Kelowna
2007 Plan under amendment	1991 Plan Pending initiation
Regional District of Central Okanagan Area G Westbank	District of Lake Country
2000 Plan amendment Anticipated 2026	1998 Plan amendment Anticipated Summer 2024

Plan Owner	LWMP Status	Approval Year	Plan Age (Policy to update every 5 years)
City of Armstrong	Approved	1988	36
City of Kelowna	Pending Initiation	1991	33
City of Penticton	Under amendment	2007	17
City of Vernon	Approved	2014	10
District of Coldstream	Approved	2019	5
District of Lake Country	Under amendment	1998	26
District of Summerland	Approved	1995	29
Regional District of Central Okanagan - Areas G Westbank	Under amendment	2000	24
Regional District of North Okanagan Mabel Lake	Approved	1999	25
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Gallagher and Vaseaux Lake	Dropped	n/a	
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Greata Ranch	Approved	2010	14
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Naramata	Stage 2 in progress	New	
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Okanagan Falls and Area	Approved	2010	14
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Osoyoos	Approved	1998	26
Town of Oliver	Approved	2002	22
Township of Spallumcheen	Pending Initiation	New	
Village of Keremeos	Approved	2021	3

Thank you for your time and attention

Questions?

Communities, IPM & AgriFood Authorizations
envcia@gov.bc.ca

Need more info? → <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/sewage>