

Requirements for

Manure Storage Facilities no longer in Active Service

Operators Intending to De-populate Livestock Operations Requiring Maintenance and/or Decommissioning Plans

If you are intending to temporarily de-populate or significantly reduce the livestock population of your operation, it is important to take measures that ensure that the manure storage facility is adequately maintained.

Section 6.2 of the *Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation (LMMMR)* requires an operator with a manure storage facility that is not in active service for more than one year, to submit — for director's approval — a written plan. The plan should indicate the operator's proposed process for either maintaining the structural integrity or decommissioning the manure storage facility.

What Needs to be Included in a Maintenance Plan?

Operators in possession/control of manure storage facilities inactive for more than one year must obtain director's approval of a maintenance plan should they wish to return the facility to active use. The approval process is initiated by the operator through submission of a maintenance plan to a Manitoba Conservation, Regional Environmental Operations office.

The maintenance plan must identify how the operator will maintain the structural integrity of the manure storage facility until it is returned to active service.

The plan should include, but not be limited to:

Contact information such as legal location, permit number or registration application number, Rural Municipality, phone number and mailing address.

Information about the livestock operation such as the size of the active operation, number of head, subspecies and type.

The proposed size of the operation after reduction of the herd.

The anticipated beginning date for the maintenance plan and likely date when the facility will be re-commissioned into service, following resumption of livestock production activities.

Manure removal information. Manure removal is optional for liquid manure storage facilities but may be a requirement for semi-liquid and solid manure storage facilities. Where the plan includes removal of manure, manure is to be applied to agricultural land in accordance with the *LMMMR*.

How the structural integrity of the manure storage facility will be maintained. The operator should consider the type of manure storage facility in their plan.

In the case of cut and fill and clay-lined earthen manure storage facilities, the operator must ensure that the base and slopes are not allowed to dry because dehydration may lead to cracking. An operator may consider either keeping manure in the facility or filling it with water while it is not in active service. The plan must indicate that a frequent inspection schedule will be implemented to verify that a freeboard is maintained to avoid overtopping.

In the case of plastic lined earthen manure storage facility, the operator must ensure that the liners are adequately ballasted so it will not be affected by strong winds. In the case of PVC lined facilities, the operator must ensure that no area of the liner is left exposed to UV radiation. An operator may consider keeping manure in the facility while it is not in active service. The plan must indicate that a frequent inspection schedule will be implemented to verify that a minimum freeboard of 0.5 metres is maintained to avoid overtopping of the facility.

In the case of a concrete or steel tank, the manure storage facility must be protected from frost heaving during the maintenance period. This can be achieved by keeping at least 1 metre of liquid in tanks, or keeping some semi-solid manure in concrete molehills. However, all tanks and other concrete facilities have to maintain a freeboard no less than 0.3 metres. Liquids must not be removed when ice has formed due to the risk of damaging the facility.

The maintenance plan must indicate that the manure storage facility will not be used for any other purpose during the period that the maintenance plan is in effect. The plan must not exceed five years. If an operator intends to use the manure storage facility for another use, they must submit a decommissioning plan to the director.

The maintenance plan must indicate how frequently the operator will inspect to ensure that the liquid level is maintained. In addition, the operator is required to report to Environmental Operations, Manitoba Conservation annually by December 31 of each year.

If monitoring wells or any leak detection systems are associated with the facility, yearly submission of groundwater or collected water quality analysis reports must be continued.

If the active operation is required to submit manure management plans and source water analysis reports, annual submissions must be filed with Manitoba Conservation during the maintenance period.

The maintenance plan must indicate that Manitoba Conservation Environmental Operations will be notified at least 60 days in advance of returning the facility to active service to allow for inspection of the manure storage facility. The 60 days will also provide sufficient time for any engineering assessment and/or upgrades (if required) in advance of the proposed date of re-population.

If you have any questions regarding submission of a maintenance plan, please contact your local Environmental Operations Manitoba Conservation office.

How Does the Province Respond to the Maintenance Plan?

The request for approval of the maintenance plan must be submitted to Environmental Operations, Manitoba Conservation for review. The director may reject or approve the plan, with or without conditions. Where the maintenance plan is not likely to ensure that the facility's structural integrity will be adequately preserved, or where the facility's condition poses a risk for the environment, the director may require a further proposal or order the operator to maintain the facility in a manner set out within the order. Conditions of approval may include requirements for ensuring surface or ground water protection, or an inspection schedule and scope. Manitoba Conservation reserves the right to adjust the requested duration of the maintenance plan depending on geological and facility conditions. Where the facility is found to require major repairs before it can be re-commissioned, an engineering assessment or repairs may be required prior to returning the manure storage facility to active use. Other conditions of approval may be related directly to the manure storage facility and or manure application. Factors such as type and condition of the manure storage facility and site conditions will be considered. A copy of Manitoba Conservation's approval of the maintenance plan will be sent to your local rural municipality.

The approval does not limit the measures required to be taken in advance of returning the manure storage facility to active use, which may include engineering assessment, major repairs, minor repairs and/or other measures.

NOTE: Producers should contact other institutions such as the local municipal government in advance of implementing the plan. It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure the protection and safety of the public.

What Needs to be Included in a Decommissioning Plan

Operators wishing to decommission a manure facility may contact their local regional Manitoba Conservation Environmental Operations Office to request a protocol for decommissioning a manure storage facility.

For more information

contact an Environmental Operations
office in your area:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Steinbach | 204-346-6060 |
| Winnipeg | 204-945-7100 |
| Gimli | 204-642-6095 |
| Brandon | 204-726-6064 |
| Portage La Prairie | 204-239-3204 |
| Dauphin | 204-622-2030 |