



Chapter: 600 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Section: 600-03 Water/Sewer

Subject: Decommissioning Asbestos Cement Pipe in Regional District Water Services

Board Resolution: 606/23 **Established Date:** October 19, 2023 **Revised Date:** [Revised date of policy]

POLICY:

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to identify the requirements for abandonment in place or removal of decommissioned asbestos cement pipe for Regional District owned water services.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to Regional District owned water systems and only applies to decommissioning of asbestos cement pipe after the date of this policy's adoption.

DEFINITIONS:

None.

POLICY:

Background

The Regional District has about 40.4 km of asbestos cement pipe in 9 of 20 water services owned by the Regional District that was installed between 1960 and 1995. Some of the pipe is due for replacement and abandonment in place, as is common practice for other types of pipe, could pose a health hazard when exposed in the future.

Decommissioning of Asbestos Cement Pipe on Private Property

Whenever feasible the first priority shall be to remove and properly dispose of asbestos cement pipe that is to be decommissioned on private property.

Abandonment in place of asbestos cement pipe on private property is only permitted if any of the following conditions applies:

- 1) Acts or Regulations do not permit removal of the pipe;
- 2) Removal of the pipe poses too great of a health and safety risk;
- 3) The property owner does not provide permission for pipe removal; and
- 4) The cost/benefit of removal is not favourable, and the measures referred to below can be put in place to mitigate any known health or safety risks.

If asbestos cement pipe is to be abandoned in place on private property the following measures shall be considered:



- 1) The Regional District is to maintain mapping of the abandoned in place asbestos cement pipe in perpetuity;
- 2) The property owner agrees to grant the Regional District a covenant under section 219 of the *Land Title Act*, acknowledging the presence of the asbestos cement pipe, agreeing to restrictions on the use of the land that will mitigate any known health or safety risks, and waiving Regional District liability;
- 3) Existing easement agreements or statutory rights of way remain on title or are replaced with new agreements that allow the Regional District access for inspection.

Decommissioning of Asbestos Cement Pipe on Public Right of Ways, Regional District Owned Land or Crown Land

Whenever feasible the first priority shall be to remove and properly dispose of asbestos cement pipe that is to be decommissioned on public right of ways, Regional District owned land or Crown Land.

Abandonment in place of asbestos cement pipe on Public Right of Ways, Regional District Owned Land or Crown Land is only permitted under the following conditions:

- 1) Acts or Regulations do not permit removal of the pipe;
- 2) Removal of the pipe poses too great of a health and safety risk;
- 3) The Province does not provide permission for pipe removal on lands under their jurisdiction; or
- 4) The estimated per meter cost of asbestos cement pipe removal is greater than 75% of the estimated per meter cost of new pipe installation.

If asbestos cement pipe is to be abandoned in place on public right of ways, Regional District owned land and or Crown Land, the following measure shall be taken:

- 1) The Regional District is to maintain mapping of the abandoned in place asbestos cement pipe in perpetuity.
- 2) Considerations shall be made for grouting of the pipe to improve structural support, particularly for short sections or smaller diameter pipe where grouting may be more economical than removal.

Asbestos Cement Pipe Abandonment Planning and Design Considerations

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) typically does not give permission to trench cut new asphalt and it would be not cost effective to pave an entire road in order to remove asbestos cement pipe. The Regional District will coordinate with MOTI on an at least 5 year time horizon for asbestos pipe replacement projects.

RELATED LEGISLATION:

There is no known Canadian Federal, or Canadian Provincial legislation that requires the removal of abandoned, buried and unexposed asbestos cement pipe.