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## **Request for Proposal Issued for SPM Version 3**

The bidding process for the review and editing of the SPM V3 closed on November 23, 2012. The Ministry of Health is still in the review process and expects to announce the successful contractor very shortly. Wcowma-BC will inform stakeholders once the contractor has been identified.

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## **Convention and Trade Show News Update**

The Schedule of Events for the 2013 Convention and Trade Show is being finalized.

Wcowma-BC is pleased to welcome Cate Soroczan from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation as our keynote speaker. The CMHC invests heavily in onsite wastewater research as it pertains to the quality of life for Canadians. Most recently, the CMHC contracted with Novus Environmental out of Guelph, Ontario, to perform a study on onsite wastewater management issues across Canada. This study will look for methods and mechanisms that allow communities to manage their private sewage infrastructure in order to protect the homeowner's investment and the environment while protecting public health and safety.

We welcome back Glen Brown, Ministry of Community Resources, to review the new Subdivision Best Practices Guideline with our stakeholder group. Updates on ASTTBC policies and the APEGBC Engineer's Guideline will be presented, as will information on maintenance practices, public education, grey water recapture, soil enrichment for effluent treatment, the problems associated with shrink/swell clays, installation best practices and troubleshooting, innovative septic solutions and more.

The event opens with two options for delegates on Thursday, February 7: an advanced workshop on soils and hydrology or a supplier sponsored workshop on system design to maximize denitrification. These workshops are followed on Friday, February 8, by the trade show along with technical presentations from our suppliers. The Annual General Meeting takes place on Friday evening followed by the banquet. A full series of industry education sessions is planned for Saturday, February 9 after which, those wishing to brush up on their pressure distribution design skills may stay on for Sunday's workshop.

More information about the show is available online at [www.wcowma-bc.com](http://www.wcowma-bc.com). Early-bird rates are still in effect, so take advantage of early registration! Registration is also available on the Wcowma-BC website at: <http://www.wcowma-bc.com/news-events/convention-registration/>. Please contact our office to request a paper copy of the convention brochure or with any questions about registration or the show.

A draft of the schedule of events is attached to this newsletter and may also be accessed on the Wcowma-BC website at: <http://www.wcowma-bc.com/news-events/convention-trade-show/>.



## **Convention and Trade Show News Update cont'd...**

Participation in the WCOWMA-BC Convention and Trade Show is a great way to earn your professional development credits for the year. Participants are eligible for the following credits:

**ROWPs:** Full participation on February 7, 8, 9 & 10 = 13 Professional Development (Con. Ed.) Credits  
Association Membership = 3 Professional Development (Con. Ed.) Credits

**Engineers:** February 7 & 10 = 8 Formal Professional Development Hours per day  
February 8 & 9 = 8 Informal Professional Development Hours per day  
Full Participation on February 7-10 = 16 Formal Prof. Dev. Credits + 16 Informal Prof. Dev. Credits

We hope you will take advantage of this excellent opportunity to learn, enhance your skills, and invest in your industry and your business.

**Register early to take advantage of early-bird rates!**

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*The article below was printed last December and it was so well received, it bears repeating:*

### **Extra guests can tax a septic system**

Don't let guests park on septic field

The holiday season with its happy gatherings of family and friends may not seem like the perfect time to talk about proper use and maintenance of septic systems, but it is.

Holiday preparations and get-togethers can mean hosting out-of-town guests who can overwhelm a system and may not be familiar with necessary septic system precautions. No one needs the extra cost of repairs or cleanups, especially during the gift-giving season.

Properly maintained and used, septic systems are a safe way to treat and disperse wastewater in millions of homes across the country. Unfortunately, back-ups and overflows can lead to costly repair bills that can run into the hundreds, or even thousands, of dollars. Protecting your property value can be a big incentive, but there's also the need to safeguard the health of you and your family. Nitrogen runoff from faulty systems can contaminate your well water or community drinking water supply. The pollutants can also make seafood unsafe to eat, turn lakes and rivers green with algae, and rob underwater life of oxygen.

So residents who use septic tanks may want to follow a few simple steps to avoid problems during the holidays. To prevent problems, here are some tips to keep your septic system flowing smoothly:

- Tell people what not to flush. Ask your guests to only put things in the drain or toilet that belong there. For example, hair combings, dental floss, disposable diapers, feminine hygiene products, cigarette butts, and condoms can cause problems for septic systems.
- Identify your drainage field and be sure to keep cars and heavy equipment off of it. Remind guests that the drainage field is an essential part of the septic system and that they should not park their vehicles on sections of the yard where the weight could damage buried pipes or disrupt underground flow.



## **Extra guests can tax a septic system cont'd...**

· Keep your system maintained. Your authorized practitioner will recommend a maintenance schedule for you during which your tank may require pumping and other maintenance work may be performed on your system. Some systems may require more frequent maintenance. Some regions may require specific cleaning and inspections every three to five years. Check with your municipality for compliance requirements.

The results will not only be a merrier holiday; properly maintained septic systems protect our drinking water, our favorite fishing holes and the lakes and rivers we use for recreation. Septic system use is growing. The U.S. EPA has found that about 25 percent of new developments are served by septic systems. Statistics indicate that 10 to 20 percent of septic systems fail. Malfunctioning systems are the third most common source of ground water contamination.

So remember that following proper guidelines will help prevent expensive repairs and keep the environment clean –not only during the holiday season–but throughout the entire year.

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**WCOWMA-BC wishes you a happy holiday season and a prosperous 2013!**

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## **Training Opportunities**

### **Onsite Wastewater Practitioner Training—Installer/Planner**

February 13, 14 & 15, 2013      Days 1-3

February 27, 28 & March 1, 2013      Days 4-6

Location: Ladysmith, BC

Students must complete all six days and successfully pass the final exam in order to achieve certification.

### **Practical Training Workshops**

Abbotsford—February 10, 2013      Pressure Distribution Workshop

**Convention & Trade Show, February 7-9, 2013 - Abbotsford, BC**