Private Water and Wastewater System Management: A Look to the North

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Background
- Approvals processes for these systems vary by region
- Governing body tends to change by location in Northern Ontario
- Lots of legislation that owner/operators must abide by, can seem overwhelming
- Municipalities with lower tax bases can find system management to be an expensive requirement

Research Question
What are the gaps and issues facing rural water and wastewater system management in Northern Ontario?

Methodology
- Guidebook Development
- Responsibility Agreement Model
- Identify technological BMP’s
- Legislation Analysis
- Key-Informant interviews
  - MOECC
  - Conservation Authorities
  - OCWA
  - Public Health Units
  - Inspectors & Installers
  - Owner/Operators
  - Planners
- Case Studies
  1. Parry Sound
  2. North Bay
  3. Temagami
  4. Temiskaming
  5. Sault Ste. Marie
  6. Thunder Bay

Case Study Locations

Regulatory Frameworks

Gaps
- Approvals Process
- No database for these systems
- No wastewater management for pumped out effluent
- Inconsistency in management practices
- Little to no use of responsibility agreements
- Research in bed regeneration
- Inspection policies inconsistent across the board

Issues
- Drinking water testing inconsistencies
- Lack of policy pertaining to inspection regimes
- Little to no owner/operator education
- Inconsistent authoritative control
- Addressing unorganized territories
- Significant unknowns
- Sewage systems previously installed without permits

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Conclusions
- How to fill the gaps and remedy the issues?
- Need for integrated watershed management
- Essential owner/operator education on their systems
- Development of system database by township
- Cohesive inspection policies / programs
- Further use of BMP’s
- Developing an action plan for unorganized territories

References:
6 • Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. 2014. “Guide to applying for an Approval of an Outfall.”