

Update on Current Snow Storage Sites

Recommendation:

That the November 15, 2011, Transportation Services report 2011TS9888 be received for information.

Report Summary

This report provides information on the location of current snow storage sites and guidelines followed.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the September 6, 2011, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration provide a report to Transportation and Infrastructure Committee outlining:

- a) more information regarding whether the current snow storage sites are logically located
- b) other potential options for storage of snow

and bring potential policy changes if needed.

Report

Currently the City operates five snow storage sites; these sites are located one in each of the four quadrants of the city and one located closer to the center of the city to serve the central core. All these sites are in industrial areas where there is appropriate land use and are situated to take advantage of major truck routes. Attachment 1 shows the location of these five snow storage sites in relation to the truck route system.

Snow removed from city roadways contains contaminants such as sand,

other suspended solids, salt, metals, hydrocarbon residue and trash. If disposed of improperly, the collection and removal of snow may pose environmental risks.

Alberta Environment's *Snow Disposal Guidelines for the Province of Alberta* states that "the location of snow disposal sites must be well planned in order to minimize environmental impacts". Snow storage sites should be situated in locations that are designed to accommodate the volumes of snow anticipated and control the snow melt to properly manage any contaminants. The guideline strongly discourages the direct dumping of waste snow into watercourses; the guideline also states that "snow disposal sites should not be used as, or located in recreational areas", they also indicate that snow melt water may not be suitable for use in recreational water bodies.

The options for storage of snow removed from city roadways must take into consideration Alberta Environment's guidelines. These guidelines preclude the use of open parkland, public utility lots and areas around storm water lakes. Containment and control of melt water to manage contaminants is required.

All of Edmonton's snow storage sites are designed to contain the melt water, have settling ponds to reduce suspended particulates in the melt water and structures to control off-site discharge of the treated water. The melt water and discharge is monitored regularly through the spring and summer.

Due to the above guidelines that Administration follows regarding snow storage sites, there are no changes to the Winter Road Maintenance Policy C409G required.

Policy

Winter Road Maintenance Policy C409G

Corporate Outcomes

An effective snow and ice control program supports The Way We Move strategic goal of a well maintained infrastructure and ensures a safe reliable transportation network through the winter season.

Proper snow storage site design and management supports The Way We Green strategic goal of protecting the North Saskatchewan River from pollution caused by storm water runoff.

Attachments

1. Map of Snow Storage Site Locations