



THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF LAC DU BONNET POLICY & PROCEDURES

Policy Name: PEATLAND BURN PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS POLICY	Policy Number: ADMIN-2026-06
Policy Manual Section: ADMINISTRATION	Number of Pages: 4
Resolution Number: 2026 0316	Resolution Date: July 14, 2026
Status: APPROVED	Review Date: As Required

1) PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define the municipality's role in reviewing and providing comments on peatland development burning applications, while ensuring awareness and alignment with provincial regulations and minimizing impacts to residents, infrastructure, and public safety.

2) SCOPE

This policy applies to all peatland development burning activities within the municipality, particularly those occurring within the provincially designated peat smoke control zone. It governs municipal review, comment, and support processes for permit applications, as well as applicant expectations and coordination with provincial authorities.

3) DEFINITION

Peatland Development Fire means a fire started for the purpose of:

- a) burning peat and debris resulting from land clearing, or
- b) removing a layer of peat from land.

Peat Smoke Control Zone

The area established under Manitoba Regulation 226/89 pursuant to The Environment Act, generally defined as the region in southeastern Manitoba bounded by the eastern boundary of Provincial Trunk Highway 59 to the Ontario border, and extending north from the United States border to the southern boundary of Township 20.

Permit means an authorization issued by Manitoba Conservation and Climate for a peatland development fire.

4) REGULATORY COMPLIANCE UNDER PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION

- 4.1 No person shall start a peatland development fire within the peat smoke control zone except under the authority of a valid permit issued by Manitoba Conservation.
- 4.2 All peatland burning activities must comply with Manitoba Regulation 226/89 and applicable provisions of The Environment Act.
- 4.3 A permit may be cancelled or suspended at any time by the Director of Environment. Upon notice of cancellation or suspension, the permit holder shall immediately extinguish any fire started under the permit.
- 4.4 Peatland development burn permits will generally only be issued during the following periods:
 - a) June 1 to August 31
 - b) November 16 to March 14

5) CONDITIONS FOR PEAT BURNING UNDER PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION

- 5.1 Permits for peat or debris piles shall only be supported if a designated government official confirms that the piles are sufficiently dry, including piles that are less than three years old. A designated government official may be from the Department of Environment or Manitoba Wildfire staff.
- 5.2 All piles must be adequately dried and cured to ensure efficient and low-smoke combustion.
- 5.3 Dryness must be verified through physical inspection, including testing the interior of piles.

6) APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE PROVINCIAL PEAT LAND DEVELOPMENT BURN PERMIT APPLICATION

- 6.1 Applicants must prepare and submit a comprehensive burn plan to the province, including
 - a sketch or map of the peat burning site
 - legal description of the land
 - number and configuration of piles or windrows
 - detailed ignition plan, including limits on the area to be burned at any one time
 - daily monitoring procedures
 - extinguishment and contingency strategies

- 6.2 Applicants must implement a daily watch system to monitor smoke and fire behavior, including immediate reporting of any issues to appropriate authorities.
- 6.3 The watch system must include up-to-date contact information for
- a) the Rural Municipality office
 - b) RCMP
 - c) Manitoba Transportation (Highways)
 - d) Manitoba Environment
- 6.4 Applicants are responsible for ensuring adequate liability insurance, with a recommended minimum of \$2,000,000 in personal liability coverages
- 6.5 The applicant assumes full responsibility for all aspects of the burn, including damages, suppression costs, and compliance.

7) MUNICIPAL REVIEW AND COMMENTARY ROLE

- 7.1 All peatland burn applications must be submitted to the municipality for review and comment prior to final provincial approval.
- 7.2 The municipality does not issue peatland development burn permits but provides recommendations and comments only to the province.

8) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MUNICIPAL REVIEW

- 8.1 Applications submitted to the municipality for review and comments, as part of the provincial requirements must include:
- i. a site plan drawn to scale showing the dimensions and layout of the burn area
 - ii. legal land description
 - iii. number and configuration of piles or windrows
 - iv. confirmation of pile age and drying period
 - v. a burn plan outlining ignition, monitoring, and extinguishment methods.

9) COUNCIL REVIEW AND COMMENTARY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 All applications shall be presented to Council for consideration regardless of size.
- 9.2 In evaluating applications, Council may consider:
- a) Public Safety - proximity to residences within approximately 1.6 kilometres and potential smoke impacts on residents and sensitive areas.

b) Municipal Roads & Traffic Management - proximity to provincial highways or major municipal roads and associated safety risks

c) Operations Management and/or protection of Municipal Infrastructure - overall compatibility with surrounding land uses

d) letters of support or opposition from affected residents

9.3 Council may provide comments, recommendations, concerns, or support by resolution of Council.

9.4 Lack of community support or identified safety concerns may result in the municipality providing comments noting concerns for the application.

10) ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL CONSIDERATIONS

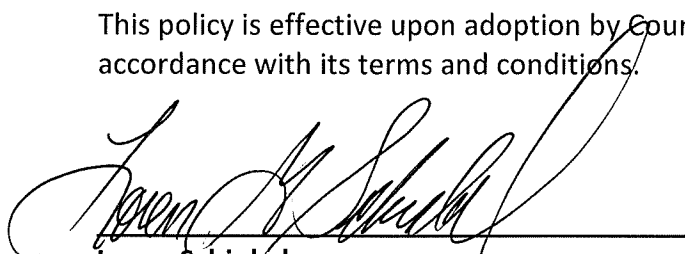
10.1 The municipality may identify areas where peatland burning is not supported due to density, land use, or safety considerations.

10.2 Where concerns are identified, the municipality may request consultation with a provincial District Officer or Manitoba Wildfire staff member prior to providing comments.

10.3 Municipal comments are advisory in nature and final approval authority rest with Manitoba Environment.

10.4 Any complaints regarding this policy or effects thereof should be directed to the Manitoba Environment office.

This policy is effective upon adoption by Council and shall be enforced by municipal administration in accordance with its terms and conditions.


Loren Schinkel
Reeve
Deanne Duke
Chief Administrative Officer