

An Environmental Work Practice is a set of positive guidelines or "Do's and Don'ts" on how to control an aspect of the services, activities, or products of Yukon Energy that may have a negative effect on the environment.

TREATED WOOD

EMS-EWP-012

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the **Environmental Work Practice** for **Treated Wood** is to provide the steps required to store, use and dispose of treated wood in an environmentally responsible manner.

- The wood preservatives on Yukon Energy poles are typically CCA (chromated copper arsenate) and PCP (Pentachlorophenol).
- These preservatives contain certain substances that can be hazardous to the environment and human health if proper consideration is not made regarding their use, storage, and disposal.

2.0 Requirements

2.1 Installation

Some basic objectives to consider when developing installation procedures to minimize environmental impacts include:

- Review MSDS for chromated copper arsenate and pentachlorophenol
- To minimize ground disturbance, diggers and augers will be used to dig holes for replacement poles. A backhoe will only be used when ground conditions prevent augering to the appropriate depth.
- In areas not affected by permafrost sensitive terrain, a pole trailer will be used to transport replacement poles on the right-of-way. In some instances the poles may be dragged to their appropriate area.
- On permafrost sensitive terrain, poles may be transported by rubber tired vehicle under the appropriate conditions (e.g. hard packed snow, frozen conditions). Poles shall not be dragged.
- For permafrost sensitive terrain, sawdust and/or wood chips or other acceptable material will be placed around the base of the pole for additional insulation of the ground.

- Construction should be scheduled as to minimize the risk to aquatic organisms. For example, construction activities that involve creek crossings should not occur during migration, spawning, or other sensitive life stages of fish or other aquatic organisms in the area. Contact YEC Environment Department, DFO or check the YEC Environmental Requirements Manual for these timing windows.
- Plan the structure to minimize the amount of treated wood that comes in contact with water.
- Avoid applying chemicals in the field. Pre-build structures wherever possible.
- Good clean up of the site is necessary
- Booms of absorbent material should be placed around the structure if treated with a oil borne substance and placed into water
- These booms should remain in place until all visible traces of oily surface residues are gone. Also, absorbent materials should always be on hand to quickly clean up spills, or to wipe away excess preservative on the wood if leaching does occur.
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

2.2 Management of post-use treated wood

- A waste disposal form must be completed before waste treated wood is relinquished from YEC custody to a third party.
- Encourage the original user to re-use treated wood to the extent practicable, and;
- Where such reuse occurs, make every reasonable effort to manage the handling of that wood and any by-products (e.g., wood chips, saw dust, extracted preservatives) in a manner that prevents or minimizes:
 - a) Preservative being released to the environment; and
 - b) Risks to human health.
- Document how the treated wood is being used

2.3 Storage of Treated Wood

More than 55m³ of treated wood held in a storage facility

- Elevate treated wood to avoid direct contact with water run-off, where practicable.
- Clear treated wood storage areas of combustible ground vegetation for > 5.0 meters.
- Store in area where run-off can be captured and managed.

- Store treated wood materials at least 30 metres from adjacent bush or forested areas.
- Provide proper fencing and/or signage to designate storage area, where practicable.
- Provide absorbent base, such as wood chips, under treated wood, where practicable.
- Provide emergency response information, such as emergency telephone number nearby
- Provide fire protection equipment, such as fire extinguishers, as required.
- Limit access to the storage area by designating access roads for user's vehicle only

In the field

- Deliver treated wood, as required, to minimize storage time “in-field”.
- Inspect treated wood upon delivery for surface deposits and dryness.
- Place tarpaulin or weather-resistant material over treated wood products, where practicable.
- Inspect the storage area for evidence of leaching treatment chemicals.

3.0 Applicable Legislation

Solid Waste Regulations, Environment Act, Yukon Territorial Government

Special Waste Permit, Yukon Environment, Yukon Territorial Government

4.0 Additional information

Environment Canada - Industrial Treated Wood Users Guidance Document
(Version 1, September 2004).