



## **Regulation of Petroleum Contaminated Sites**

Municipalities expressed concerns about regulating unused petroleum contaminated sites. While site owners may continue to pay property taxes and take measures to prevent contamination on adjacent properties, these underutilized properties may create other issues for municipalities. For example, concerns may include missed economic development opportunities and the resulting increased tax revenue.

*The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002* shelters a municipality from the responsibility to clean up a contaminated site if acquired through *The Tax Enforcement Act*.

*The Municipalities Act* [clause 8(1)(1)] enables a municipality to pass bylaws for:

*“the abandonment, discontinuance, dismantling, removal or decommissioning of any use, building, or other structure, including former railway lines, and the reclamation of the land on which the use, building or other structure is located”.*

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs developed a draft bylaw for consideration by municipalities planning to regulate the reclamation of petroleum contaminated sites. The draft may be used as a starting point to enact a bylaw to meet a community’s specific concerns. When developing bylaws a municipality is encouraged to consult its solicitor.

The draft bylaw titled *Hydrocarbon Impacted Site Restoration* is available on the Municipal Bylaws page of the ministry’s web site at [www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/publications/municipal-bylaws/](http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/publications/municipal-bylaws/).

Questions or comments about this bulletin can be directed to a municipal advisor by calling 306-787-2680.