

# The Septic Tank Cleanout Management Program

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### 1) How was the 2011 budget tax established with regards to emptying septic tanks ?

*In order to maintain more than 1 437 septic systems over a two-year period, the cost including taxes amounts to 223.52 \$. The annual tax to empty a septic tank costs 132.21\$. This amount includes an annual amount of 20.44\$ for the management program cost. The total amount is broken down as follows:*

<u>Description</u>	<u>Total cost</u>	<u>Tax per unit annually</u>
Contract value for emptying 1 437 septic tanks 76 \$	160 605 \$	111
Costs related to program management	29 375 \$	20 44 \$
Total	189 980 \$	132 21 \$

*Of this number, 538 septic tanks in the north sector of the Municipality will be emptied in 2011. In the south sector the more than 899 septic tanks will be emptied in 2012.*

*For summer residences or chalets the annual tax for emptying the septic tank amounts to 66.11 \$ because according to a provincial by-law, this type of building requires its tank to be emptied only once every four years.*

### 2) Is it possible that the 2011 tax to empty septic tanks be readjusted once the contract has been awarded to the entrepreneur ?

*Yes, the tax to empty septic tanks will be lowered **if and only if** the lowest tender who meets the norms arrives with an amount that is less than what was foreseen in our budget expenditure estimates for 2011 pertaining to this mandate.*

### 3) How was the 2011 tax established based on the inventory of septic systems ?

*An annual tax of 93.62 \$ will only apply for 2011 and 2012 for a total amount of 187 24\$. This covers the cost of surveying 1 161 septic systems installed before 1995 in the territory of Rigaud.*

### 4) How were the cost and inventory tax determined ?

*The Municipality of Rigaud asked for tenders to survey the number of septic systems as well as to produce a corrective plan in August of 2010. The firm BPR was awarded the contract in September 2010 in the amount of 193 580 62 \$.*

*The surveying cost, to cover the 1 161 properties involved, represents 166.77 \$ per unit to which 20 51 \$ is added per building to cover the cost related to the program management.*

**5) Why did the Municipality of Rigaud choose to survey septic systems installed before 1995 ?**

*The Municipality has very little information pertaining to septic installations dating before 1995. The survey of septic systems has allowed us to identify properties which benefit from an autonomous water treatment system from those whose system, in certain cases, constitute a source of pollution to the environment.*

*This survey has permitted us to produce a specification sheet for each septic installation and property in the territory of Rigaud dating before 1995. These specification sheets were completed with the inspection of each property and subsequently validated by the engineers of the Firm BPR.*

*The goal of this survey was also to identify problem sectors in the territory that create a source of pollution which could jeopardize health and the environment.*

*The mandate of this survey also included a corrective plan permitting us to evaluate the feasibility of long-term solutions for each of the problem sectors in the territory where it is difficult and costly to bring individual faulty septic systems to meet the norms as compared to communal waste water treatment system..*

*Additionally, backed by the septic system installation survey and corrective report, the Municipality plans to request financial aide from the two levels of government in order to help to construct communal waste water treatment system.*

**6) Has a “Green” strategy been put in place by the Municipality of Rigaud whereby septic installations do not meet the norm ?**

*In 2009, the Municipality took steps to elaborate a plan on strategic development. The citizens who were present at this meeting clearly expressed their preoccupation in protecting the milieu and the environment and they demanded that the environment be given top priority in a strategic development plan.*

*This development plan includes many axis of development. Among these is the Environment and one of the objectives is to have all waste water meet environmental norms by establishing control on the restoration and upkeep of septic systems*

*In order to reach this objective, Municipal council adopted a program in June 2010 aimed at having all septic systems meet the norms and the management of emptying septic tanks.*

**7) Why does the Municipality want to control the emptying of septic tanks?**

*The Municipality noted after analyzing the 2009 statistics that barely 11 % of the all property owners could prove effectively, that their septic tanks were maintained and emptied periodically and this despite the norms established by the “Regulation respecting waste water disposal systems for isolated dwellings” (Q-2, r.8).*

*This provincial by-law which exists since 1981, demands that all dwellings have their septic tanks emptied every two years.*

*Now, the norm to empty one's tank every two years aims at favouring an adequate functioning of the purifying element attached to the septic tank. Poor management of a septic system can lead to the transportation and transference of sediment and other solid materials into the purifier which leads to sludge and the saturation of the latter.*

**8) Who will the Municipality of Rigaud mandate to empty septic systems ?**

*The Municipality will proceed, in spring 2011 to ask for tenders to empty the 1 437 septic tanks for a years period 2011-2012 and 1779 septic tanks for the second period of to years 2013-2014..The work involves two sectors, one to the north, the other, to the south.*

*Highway 40 divides the Municipality into the two sectors mentioned above. The north sector is located between the Outaouais River and Highway 40. The south sector is delimited by Highway 40 and the southern limit of the Municipality located adjacent to the Municipalities of Sainte-Marthe and Très Saint-Rédempteur.*

*Septic tanks located on properties in the north sector will be emptied starting in 2011 and every two years following (odd-numbered years). For those located in the south sector, tanks will be emptied beginning in 2012 and every two years following (even-numbered years).*

*In spring 2011, the Municipality will award the management contract after evaluating tenders. However, the Municipality retains the right to neither accept the lowest nor any tender exceeding budget estimates.*

*The entrepreneur hired by the Municipality will have 6 months, in 2011, to empty septic tanks in the north sector and six months, in 2012, to empty those in the south sector.*

**9) I had my septic tank emptied in 2010, can I therefore be exempted from being taxed for this in 2011 ?**

*If your property is located in the north sector, that is, north of Highway 40, the area where the job to empty septic tanks is to begin in 2011, you may be exempted, if you provide a proof that your tank was emptied in 2010.*

However, in 2012, you will be taxed for emptying your septic tank as this will take place in 2013, or two years following the initial emptying of septic tanks in 2011.

If your property is located in the south sector which is south of Highway 40, you cannot be exempted from paying the 2011 tax because your septic tank will be emptied in 2012, being the second year the program has been implemented.

**10) Can I be exempted from paying the emptying septic tank tax given I neither have a tank nor septic installation ?**

In this case, this means that your residence has no septic installation assuring the treatment of domestic waste water !!!

This situation goes against the Regulation respecting waste water disposal systems for isolated dwellings as your waste water is released into the environment. You must understand that there will be no emptying septic tank tax exemption applicable in such a case.

Additionally, the Municipality strongly urges you to make plans to install a septic system for your residence.

**11) Why is the annual emptying septic tank tax is applicable to all properties and this, the same year?**

The annual tax of \$ 132.21 on the emptying of septic tank allows the Municipality to create a fund to manage the cost for the service contract over a period of 4 years, applicable to all buildings concerned.

This fund is created within the Septic Tank Cleanout Management Program. Therefore, the calculation of the annual tax will be revised every year, based on the fund balance from the previous year.

**One must admit that as a whole, the citizens of Rigaud enjoy the exceptional natural riches of nature that are protected and where one has been permitted to maintain a way of life where nature and wildlife dominate the countryside.**

**In order to maintain this exceptional way of life where man, wildlife and nature cohabitate, it is of the utmost importance to care and assure the protection of the environment. However, this vigilance concerns everyone to guarantee that Rigaud's natural environment is preserved.**