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**POLICY NO. 8.07**

**JANUARY 26, 2016**

**TITLE: DUST CONTROL**

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**POLICY STATEMENT:**

There are many benefits to having dust control work done on roads with moderate to high traffic volumes. Some of these benefits include improved air quality of the surrounding area, improved road safety due to increased visibility and road traction, and reduced cleaning that people need to do on their homes.

Westlock County understands that a dust suppressants applied to a road works best when the road is in good shape. For applied dust suppressants to be effective, a road should have adequate load bearing capacity, proper drainage, a proper ratio of fines to aggregate material and the road needs to be properly graded.

The County favours chloride-based dust suppressants as these are best suited to Westlock County's climate. Bitumen based-dust suppressants are also suited to our climate but make roads much more costly and difficult for the County to grade and maintain.

Specific provisions are made for locations such as moderate-to-high traffic intersections and roads next to schools in order to contribute to better air quality and safety.

Applicants with properties in close proximity to each other have the option to apply jointly for dust control work to economize on the cost.

Finally, steps are taken to minimize the impact dust suppressants may have on the natural environment.

**PURPOSE:**

To provide a dust control program for residents and to clarify in what situations the County will bear the full cost, what situations the County will bear half of the cost, and what situations the County will bear none of the cost of Dust Control work it performs in the County.

## **DEFINITIONS:**

***adjacent to a road*** means within 200 metres of an unpaved road.

***County*** means the municipal corporation, Westlock County.

***vehicles per day*** means the number of vehicles that pass down a road per day

***finer*** means road material particles less than about 75mm in diameter.

***aggregate*** means road particles that are greater than about 75mm in diameter.

***body of water*** means a body of water as defined in Alberta's *Water Act*.

***road*** means an unpaved road.

***home*** means a residence of a resident. This is a structure where the resident:

(a) is the owner of the residence, or

(b) is the occupant and has entered into a tenancy agreement with the owner of the property or the owner's agent.

***resident*** means a person who lives in Westlock County for all or part of a year.

***centre point*** means the point on a road created when you draw a line from the centre of an adjacent home to the centre line of a road at a 90 degree angle to the direction of the road.

## **1. GENERAL:**

**1.1.** The application of dust suppressants on County roads shall be carried out by Westlock County or its agent in accordance with this policy.

**1.2.** The County will not apply dust suppressants on private or leased roads or other roads not under the direction, control, or management of the County.

**1.3.** Residents and businesses can apply to have dust control work done by the County.

**1.4.** The County will ensure best practices are followed when applying dust suppressants. Before the County applies a dust suppressant to a road, the County will first assess the integrity of the road. The factors assessed will include, but are not limited to:

- (a)** the load bearing capacity of the road, i.e. the quality of the road base and subgrade, compared to the volume of traffic it receives,
- (b)** the amount of fines in the road compared to the amount of aggregate materials,
- (c)** how well graded the road surface is.

**1.5.** If the County decides to apply a dust suppressant to a road but determines that the road is not in good enough condition for the dust suppressant to be effective, the County may perform maintenance on the road to promote the greatest possible longevity and effectiveness of the dust suppressant.

**1.6.** The County will not apply chloride-based dust suppressants to sections of road that

- (a)** are eight (8) metres or less from a body of water,
- (b)** are near shallow groundwater,

as there is a risk of the chlorides migrating from the road into the body of water or the ground water table.

**1.7.** The County may or may not apply chloride-based dust suppressants to roads with trees nearby that are salt-sensitive. Typical salt sensitive tree species include alder, hemlock, larch, maple, ornamentals and pine.

**1.8.** Despite any provision in this policy, Westlock County's ability to apply dust suppressants to roads in a given year as per this policy will depend on Westlock County's ability to obtain sufficient quantities of dust suppressants in that year, subject to budget availability.

**1.9.** Individuals that apply for dust control work must provide proof that they have either

- (a)** a home ,or
- (b)** a place of business, or
- (c)** a family cemetery plot in a cemetery

that is adjacent to (within 200 metres of) the road they are requesting dust control work on.

**1.10.** Applications for dust control work can be sent to the County office at:

**10336 – 106 Street  
Westlock, Alberta  
T7P 2G1**

or email at:

[info@westlockcounty.com](mailto:info@westlockcounty.com)

**1.11.** Qualified applicants must sign a work agreement before the County will perform dust control work on the road the applicants requested the work on. If several applicants are applying jointly for dust control work to a road, all joint-applicants must sign the work agreement.

**1.12.** The work agreement stated in the previous section will specify items such as, but not limited to,

- (a)** the payment amount the applicant(s) are responsible for (see section 1.13),
- (b)** the dust suppressant that will be used,
- (c)** the length and location of the road section that the County will perform dust control work on.

**1.13.** Applicants shall bear the cost of the dust control work, the costs of which are set out in Schedule “A”.

**1.14.** The County does not in any way guarantee the effectiveness of the dust control work.

**1.15.** Once Westlock County orders the dust suppressant material for work on the applicant's road, the County will not make any refunds to applicants.

**1.16.** The County reserves the right to grade or conduct any other maintenance it deems necessary on dust suppressant treated roads.

**2. COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL HAULERS:**

The County may carry out dust control work on commercial/industrial haul routes and charge the cost of the work to the commercial / industrial companies that use those haul routes,

- (a)** in accordance with the road management agreements those commercial/industrial hauling companies have entered into with the County, or
- (b)** in accordance with any other agreements those commercial/industrial hauling companies have entered into with the County.

MOTION: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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Peter Kelly  
Chief Administrative Officer