

# cold regions utilities monograph

Third Edition



Technical Editor:  
D.W. Smith

**ASCE**

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## PREFACE

The concepts related to the design, construction and operation of infrastructure components for the delivery of water, the removal of liquid and solid wastes, and the provision of power for services are relatively new in the extremely cold environment found in the far north or south. The development of these systems was originally limited to the communities founded in the early 1900s during the initial period of gold exploration. A second period of significant interest started during the Second World War with the need to protect the northern part of North America from invasion and to supply allies with equipment and support. The Cold War led to a sustained engineering effort in the creation of community industrial and military infrastructure.

Early efforts at the provision of community utilities in Alaska and the Canadian Arctic regions were plagued with many challenges and system failures. The Arctic Health Research Center in Alaska, an arm of the U.S. Public Health Service along with the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, the Department of Public Health, and later the Northern Technology Centre in Canada became the center of each country's research, design and development efforts.

In an attempt to share the knowledge being gained through the various civilian and military-based studies made by both governments, a variety of professional conferences and meetings dealing with permafrost were initiated. These gatherings also included many geotechnical and engineering issues. In the 1960s and early 1970s a few professional conferences were held that focused on engineering issues alone. In 1978, the first in a series of conferences based on utilities systems was held in Edmonton, Alberta. Over the following ten years four professional conferences were held on related issues (three in Edmonton, one in Fairbanks). In a related effort, a series of two cold regions engineering conferences was held at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. In 1979 after the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) formed the Technical Council on Cold Regions Engineering under the leadership of Amos "Joe" Alter, the first of a continuing series of cold regions engineering conferences was held in Anchorage, Alaska. That series of professional conferences was expanded to address issues common to Alaska, Canada, and the northern tier of the United States. With global networking and communications the exchange of technical information has

expanded to the point that new developments anywhere in cold regions can now be shared throughout the world.

This document developed out of an initial effort at the first utilities delivery conference in 1976 in Edmonton, Alberta. The need to document the results of the many research, design, construction and operation investments was obvious. Following that conference, the Northern Technology Centre was funded to initiate the planning of a reference manual for utilities systems in cold regions. In 1976 a group of Canadian and United States engineers agreed to cooperate in the development of such a document. The manual was to be a reference document for professional engineers trained in more temperate climates. It was to introduce the issues of planning design, construction and operation of utilities systems in cold, freezing conditions. That objective continues in this third edition of the document.

The Cold Climate Utilities Delivery Manual (1979) was originally published by Environment Canada (in both English and French) and republished by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The second edition, entitled the Cold Climate Utilities Manual (1986), was produced by Environment Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE), and was marketed by the CSCE. Through a cooperative agreement between the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, the Cold Regions Utilities Monograph has been produced and marketed by ASCE. The Technical Council on Cold Regions Engineering sponsored the monograph as a part of their monograph series. The series includes the following volumes:

- Design for Ice Forces
- Cold Regions Construction
- Frost Action and Its Control
- Freezing and Thawing of Soil-Water Systems
- Thermal Design Considerations in Frozen Ground Engineering
- Embankment Design and Construction in Cold Regions
- Arctic Coastal Processes and Slope Protection Design

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# Table of Contents

	Page
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Objective	1-1
1.2 Planning and Management Considerations	1-2
1.3 Geotechnical Considerations	1-2
1.4 Thermal Considerations	1-2
1.5 Water Sources	1-2
1.6 Water Treatment	1-3
1.7 Water Storage	1-3
1.8 Water Distribution and Sewage Collection	1-3
1.9 Waste Disposal	1-4
1.10 Utilidors	1-4
1.11 Central Facilities and Individual Systems	1-4
1.12 Camps	1-5
1.13 Fire Protection	1-5
1.14 Solid Waste Management	1-5
1.15 Energy Management	1-6
1.16 Summary and Future Needs	1-6
<b>2 PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS</b>	
2.1 Objectives	2-1
2.2 Government Assistance Programs	2-6
2.3 Legislation, Regulations, Policies, Standards and Criteria	2-7
2.4 Planning Process	2-7
2.5 Community and Site Considerations	2-9
2.6 Utility Considerations	2-15
2.7 Evaluation of Utility Options	2-21
2.8 Project Management	2-26
2.9 Operation and Maintenance	2-38
2.10 Utility Management	2-43
2.11 References	2-44
<b>3 GEOTECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>	
3.1 Cold Regions Characteristics	3-1
3.2 Subsurface Investigations	3-15
3.3 Soil Mechanics	3-25
3.4 Foundations	3-43
3.5 Slope Stability	3-73
3.6 Earthworks	3-75
3.7 Roads and Airfields	3-86
3.8 Hydrologic Hazards	3-101
3.9 References	3-103
3.10 Bibliography	3-114

	Page	
<b>4</b>	<b>THERMAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>	
4.1	Introduction	4-1
4.2	Thermal Considerations of Ground	4-1
4.3	Heat Loss From Pipes	4-19
4.4	Replacement of Lost Heat	4-24
4.5	Physical Methods of Reducing Heat Loss	4-25
4.6	Thermal Calculations	4-28
4.7	Example Problems	4-37
4.8	References	4-48
4.9	Bibliography	4-51
<b>5</b>	<b>WATER SOURCE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
5.1	Introduction	5-1
5.2	Water Sources	5-1
5.3	Water Requirements	5-14
5.4	Structures	5-20
5.5	References	5-36
<b>6</b>	<b>WATER TREATMENT</b>	
6.1	Introduction	6-1
6.2	Water Quality Characteristics	6-2
6.3	Process Design	6-4
6.4	Specific Contaminant Removal	6-16
6.5	Plant Design	6-17
6.6	Miscellaneous Considerations	6-17
6.7	Operation	6-18
6.8	References	6-18
<b>7</b>	<b>WATER STORAGE</b>	
7.1	Introduction	7-1
7.2	Capacity	7-1
7.3	Earthen Reservoirs	7-2
7.4	Rock Reservoirs	7-8
7.5	Tank Reservoirs	7-11
7.6	References	7-28
7.7	Bibliography	7-28

	Page	
<b>8</b>	<b>WATER DISTRIBUTION</b>	
8.1	Introduction	8-1
8.2	Prospective Water Consumption as a Design Consideration	8-1
8.3	System Options	8-1
8.4	Self-Haul Systems	8-2
8.5	Vehicle-Haul Systems	8-4
8.6	Piped Systems	8-11
8.7	Service Lines	8-18
8.8	Appurtenances	8-22
8.9	Freeze Protection and Thawing	8-29
8.10	Disinfection	8-29
8.11	References	8-29
8.12	Bibliography	8-30
<b>9</b>	<b>WASTEWATER COLLECTION</b>	
9.1	Sources of Wastewater	9-1
9.2	Undiluted Human Waste (Honey Bucket Sewage-Haul Systems)	9-3
9.3	Tanker Vehicle and Building Holding Tank Systems	9-3
9.4	Piped Collection Systems	9-8
9.5	Pressure Sewage Systems	9-14
9.6	Vacuum Sewer Collection Systems	9-17
9.7	Municipal Lift Stations	9-19
9.8	Force Mains	9-21
9.9	Building Plumbing	9-21
9.10	Typical Construction Costs	9-21
9.11	References	9-22
9.12	Bibliography	9-22
<b>10</b>	<b>WASTEWATER TREATMENT</b>	
10.1	The Receiving Environment	10-1
10.2	Guidelines for Municipal Wastewater Discharges	10-2
10.3	Wastewater Characteristics	10-2
10.4	Wastewater Treatment	10-7
10.5	Wastewater Disposal	10-31
10.6	References	10-38
10.7	Bibliography	10-41
<b>11</b>	<b>UTILIDORS</b>	
11.1	Introduction	11-1
11.2	Design Considerations	11-4
11.3	Components and Materials	11-8
11.4	Appurtenances	11-10
11.5	Thermal Considerations	11-11
11.6	Maintenance	11-13
11.7	Costs	11-13
11.8	References	11-13

	Page	
<b>12</b>	<b>CENTRAL FACILITIES</b>	
12.1	Definition	12-1
12.2	Planning for a Central Facility	12-1
12.3	Design Space Considerations	12-2
12.4	Construction Techniques	12-2
12.5	Water and Wastewater Service	12-2
12.6	Equipment and Mechanical Aspects	12-3
12.7	Heat Recovery	12-7
12.8	Fire Protection	12-7
12.9	Requirements Often Overlooked	12-8
12.10	Costs	12-8
12.11	References	12-8
12.12	Bibliography	12-10
<b>13</b>	<b>REMOTE CAMPS</b>	
13.1	Introduction	13-1
13.2	Camp Classification	13-1
13.3	Planning Considerations	13-5
13.4	Water Supply and Treatment	13-6
13.5	Wastewater Treatment and Disposal	13-10
13.6	Solid Wastes	13-16
13.7	Layout and Construction	13-18
13.8	Energy and Supply Requirements	13-23
13.9	References	13-23
13.10	Bibliography	13-29
<b>14</b>	<b>INDIVIDUAL ON-SITE SYSTEMS</b>	
14.1	Introduction	14-1
14.2	Water Supply	14-1
14.3	Water Conservation Alternatives	14-9
14.4	On-Site Wastewater Management	14-11
14.5	References	14-20
14.6	Bibliography	14-20
<b>15</b>	<b>FIRE PROTECTION</b>	
15.1	Review of Existing Situation in Northern Communities	15-1
15.2	Requirements of a Fire Protection System	15-4
15.3	Public Fire Suppression	15-7
15.4	Water Supply for Fire Protection	15-10
15.5	References	15-12
15.6	Bibliography	15-13

	Page
<b>16 SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT</b>	
16.1 Introduction	16-1
16.2 Existing Systems	16-1
16.3 Objectives of Solid Waste Management	16-7
16.4 Disposal Method	16-10
16.5 Guidelines for Planning a Disposal Site	16-12
16.6 Guidelines for the Design of the Disposal Site	16-18
16.7 Regulatory Review	16-23
16.8 Overview of Hazardous Wastes in Northern Regions	16-24
16.9 Management Plans	16-28
16.10 References	16-28
16.11 Bibliography	16-29
<b>17 ENERGY MANAGEMENT</b>	
17.1 Introduction	17-1
17.2 Climatic Considerations	17-1
17.3 Energy Source Assessment	17-3
17.4 Heating	17-16
17.5 Electricity and Its Generation	17-29
17.6 Energy Conservation	17-42
17.7 References	17-52
17.8 Bibliography	17-53
<b>APPENDICES</b>	
<b>A PIPING OPTIONS</b>	
A.1 Introduction	A-1
A.2 Plastic Pipes	A-1
A.3 Metal Pipes	A-4
A.4 Asbestos-Cement and Concrete Pipes	A-5
A.5 Wood Stave Pipes	A-5
A.6 Pre-Insulated Pipes	A-5
A.7 Bibliography	A-18
<b>B VEHICLE-HAUL SYSTEM TIME AND COSTING EQUATIONS</b>	
B.1 Vehicle-Haul System Model	B-1
B.2 Data Supplement for Vehicle-Haul Systems	B-6
B.3 Simplified Equations	B-7
B.4 References	B-7
<b>C SNOWDRIFTING AND SNOW LOADS</b>	
C.1 Introduction	C-1
C.2 Drifting Snow	C-1
C.3 Snow Loads	C-8
C.4 References	C-12