

3.14 PERMANENT STATION SITE SELECTION

3.14.1 INTRODUCTION

From time to time, the PRAMP Committee is required to decide where to locate a permanent monitoring station. There are two main reasons why PRAMP may search for a suitable monitoring site for a permanent station: 1) the regional network is being augmented with the commissioning of a new monitoring station, or; 2) an existing station is being re-located when a landowner requests that the station be moved, the site no longer meets regulated site requirements, or other reasons. This policy ensures that decisions on station site selection follows consistent criteria and process steps.

3.14.2 APPLICATION

When PRAMP needs to identify a new site for a permanent station, consideration of location options will focus on the requirements for siting stations in the Alberta Air Monitoring Directive (AMD). In addition, cost comparisons, monitoring objectives and stakeholder input will be considered.

The broad criteria for siting air monitoring stations in the AMD includes the following:

- A clear area with no trees or tall buildings inside a 100-meter radius around the station (deviations from this are evaluated on a case-by-case basis)
- Year-round access with a nearby power service
- Set back from roadways

The Technical Program Managers (TPMs) will inform the Board when monitoring site selection is required and outline the proposed approach to seek input from stakeholders. The TPMs will invite input from the Board on factors to consider for monitoring locations and on the stakeholder engagement approach.

The TPMs will identify and assess sites within an appropriate geographic area based on the monitoring objectives for the station. After an initial review of possible sites, the TPMs will provide options to the Technical Working Group (TWG). The Technical Working Group will provide a recommendation to the Board of Directors on the preferred site.

During the assessment phase, the TPMs will provide an update at each Board meeting. PRAMP Directors are expected to provide input as early in the process as possible so that the TPMs and TWG can incorporate the input into the assessment of options.

