

Fact Sheet

The Water Security Agency is a provincial Crown corporation that has been established to manage, administer, develop, control and protect the water, watersheds and related land resources of Saskatchewan.

The Water Security Agency Act requires that a Water Rights Licence be obtained for the right to use surface water or ground water. Approvals are also required to construct and operate works which divert, impound or convey water. There are circumstances where water used for domestic purposes may be exempt from requiring an approval. The following provides an overview of domestic water use and the conditions under which an approval is not required.

Domestic Purpose

Domestic purpose means the use of surface water or ground water for household and sanitary purposes, the watering of stock, the spraying of crops, the watering of non-commercial lawns and gardens adjoining private residences, but does not include the sale or barter of water for any purpose. Water sources may include deep or shallow wells, springs, lakes, sloughs, streams, creeks and rivers. Sources may also include storage ponds, dugouts, and cisterns which capture or hold rainwater, surface water runoff or hauled water, provided the reservoir storage capacity is less than 5000 cubic metres (4 acre-feet).

Domestic Purpose Uses which do not require a Water Rights Licence and Approval to Construct and Operate Works

- Any person owning or occupying land that adjoins a surface water body may use water from the source for domestic purposes, without obtaining a Water Rights Licence or Approval to Construct and Operate Works from the Water Security Agency provided no permanent works for the purpose of diverting or impounding water are required.
- Any person owning or occupying land may use up to 5000 cubic metres of water per year drawn from a dugout, constructed on that land, for domestic purposes without obtaining a Water Rights Licence, or Approval to Construct and Operate Works from the Water Security Agency provided the storage capacity of the dugout does not exceed 5000 cubic metres.
- Any person owning or occupying land may use up to 5000 cubic metres per year of ground water from beneath that land for domestic purposes without obtaining a Water Rights Licence or Approval to Construct and Operate Works.

Domestic Purpose Uses which require a Water Rights Licence and Approval to Construct and Operate Works

- Any time water use will exceed 5000 cubic meters per year.
- The project includes works (dams, dykes, ditches, etc.) for the diversion or impoundment of water.
- The project includes a dugout with a storage capacity greater than 5000 cubic metres.
- The project includes a dugout with a storage capacity less than 5000 cubic meters and works for the diversion or impoundment of water.
- Either the point of diversion or the point of water use is located on land not owned or occupied by the user.

Additional information on our approvals process is available in the fact sheets: Ground Water Approval Process (FS-313) and Surface Water Approval Process (FS-312).

Other Approvals

As the proponent you remain responsible for ensuring adequate land control is in place and maintained for any works that may affect land which you do not own or control. (Appendix I)

Some approvals which may also be required include:

- Where the proposed project will include works that will alter the bed, bank or boundary of a watercourse an Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit may be required from the Water Security Agency.
- Additional approvals may be required from the Water Security Agency and/or the Regional Health Authority for connections to rural water pipelines.

Applications and Information

An application form and instructions for a Water Rights Licence and Approval to Construct and Operate Works (RG-103) is available on our website (www.wsask.ca) or from the nearest Water Security Agency office. All new applications should be submitted to:

Water Security Agency - Head Office

Victoria Place

400 - 111 Fairford Street East

MOOSE JAW SK S6H 7X9

Ph: 306.694.3980

Fax: 306.694.3944

E-mail: comm@wsask.ca

General information about the Water Security Agency, our programs, Fact Sheets and forms can be found online (www.wsask.ca) or at any one of our office locations.

Water Security Agency

Head Office

Victoria Place
400 - 111 Fairford Street East
MOOSE JAW SK S6H 7X9
Ph: 306.694.3980
Fax: 306.694.3944
E-mail: comm@wsask.ca

Water Security Agency

Yorkton Regional Office

200 - 120 Smith Street East
YORKTON SK S3N 3V3
Ph: 306.786.1490
Fax: 306.786.1495

Water Security Agency

Weyburn Regional Office

3rd Floor, City Centre Mall
319 - 110 Souris Avenue
WEYBURN SK S4H 2Z8
Ph: 306.848.2345
Fax: 306.848.2356

Water Security Agency

North Battleford Regional Office

402 Royal Bank Tower
1101 - 101st Street
NORTH BATTLEFORD SK S9A 0Z5
Ph: 306.446.7450
Fax: 306.446.7461

Water Security Agency

Swift Current Regional Office

306 - 350 Cheadle Street West
SWIFT CURRENT SK S9H 4G3
Ph: 306.778.8257
Fax: 306.778.82771

Water Security Agency

Nipawin Regional Office

Box 2133
201 - 1st Avenue East
NIPAWIN SK S0E 1E0
Ph: 306.862.1750
Fax: 306.862.1771

Domestic Pipeline Construction Considerations

As of February 15, 2013, domestic projects that include pipelines affecting two or more distinct parcels of land no longer require approval by the Water Security Agency. Domestic water pipelines sometimes cross lands and infrastructure not owned by the proponent, as such the proponent is responsible for ensuring that adequate land control is in place and maintained, and that they are aware of any potential hazards that may result from encountering existing utilities. The following is provided for your information in addressing these concerns.

Safety

Prior to any excavation or installation of pipelines the entire right of way should be assessed to identify potential conflicts or dangers associated with existing utilities (e.g., gas, telephone, electricity, water lines). Information on public utilities and industrial lines as well as locating services is available through Sask 1st Call, either online (www.sask1stcall.com) or by telephone (1.866.828.4888).

Rights of Way and Utility Corridors

Where proposed pipelines will cross roads, railway or utility corridors the proponent is responsible for securing the necessary sanction from the appropriate land owner or administrator (e.g., Rural Municipality, Ministry of Highways, Railway Company etc.).

Private Land (belonging to a third party)

Where proposed pipelines will cross private lands, not owned or occupied by the proponent, additional measures to ensure land control should be followed. Adequate land control can be acquired through the use of a right-of-way (easement) agreement with the affected land owner. Right-of-way agreements should be registered against the property title to prevent future conflict in the event of changes to land ownership.

Protecting your Interests

When working on leased land you are advised to confirm that any plans of proposed works are reviewed and acceptable to the land owner before construction begins. You should also discuss your plans with legal counsel to determine the best way to protect your long term interests in the project in the event that one or more portions of the land affected by the pipeline change hands in the future.