



Fact Sheet

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority has been established under *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2005* to manage, administer, develop, control and protect the water, watersheds and related land resources of Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2005 requires that a Water Rights Licence be obtained for the right to use surface or ground water. Approvals are also required to construct and operate works which convey water. There are, however, some circumstances which allow domestic purpose water use projects to be exempt from requiring an approval. The following provides an overview of a domestic water user and the conditions when an approval is not required.

Domestic Purpose

Domestic purpose means 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, streams, rivers, on-farm storage ponds, dugouts, and cisterns which capture rainwater or holds hauled water up to 5000 cubic metres.

Domestic Purpose Uses Exempt From Approvals/Licence

- A person owning or occupying land that adjoins a surface water body may use water for domestic purposes, without obtaining a Water Rights Licence from the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Approval providing there are no constructed diversion⁽¹⁾ works.
- A dugout combined with a pump or other apparatus to fill storage vessels constructed for domestic purposes is not considered to be a work requiring approval, providing the diversion will not be greater than 5000 cubic metres per year.
- A person owning or occupying land may use up to 5000 cubic metres per year of ground water beneath the land for domestic purposes without obtaining a Water Rights Licence.

⁽¹⁾ Diversion for the purpose of *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2005* means the taking, removal or impoundment of water.

Domestic Purpose Uses Which Require Approvals/Licence

- The project contains works (dams, dykes, ditches, etc.).
- The project consists of a dugout with a capacity greater than 5000 cubic metres.
- The project consists of a dugout with a capacity less than 5000 cubic metres and contains works.
- The project includes pipelines that cross road allowances, property or quarter section lines.
- Water use exceeds 5000 cubic metres per year.

Approvals From Other Agencies

Some approvals which may also be required include:

- Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit issued by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment for works within a watercourse.
- Authorization issued by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, for approval for harmful alteration, disruption or destruction (HADD) of fish habitat.
- Approvals issued by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment and/or Regional Health Authority for connection to rural pipelines.

Applications and Information

An application form (RG-103) for an Approval to Construct and Operate Works is available on our website or from the nearest Saskatchewan Watershed Authority office as shown below:

**Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Head Office**
Victoria Place
111 Fairford Street East
Moose Jaw, SK S6H 7X9
Ph: (306) 694-3980
Fax: (306) 694-3944
E-mail: comm@swa.ca

**Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Yorkton Regional Office**
2nd Floor, 120 Smith Street East
Yorkton, SK S3N 3V3
Ph: (306) 786-1490
Fax: (306) 786-1495
E-mail: comm@swa.ca

**Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Weyburn Regional Office**
Box 2003
3rd Floor, City Centre Mall
110 Souris Avenue
Weyburn, SK S4H 2Z9
Ph: (306) 848-2345
Fax: (306) 848-2356
E-mail: comm@swa.ca

**Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
North Battleford Regional Office**
402 Royal Bank Tower
1101 – 101st St.
North Battleford, SK S9A 0Z5
Ph: (306) 446-7450
Fax: (306) 446-7461
E-mail: comm@swa.ca

**Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Swift Current Regional Office**
Box 5000
3rd Floor, E.I. Wood Building
350 Cheadle Street West
Swift Current, SK S9H 4G3
Ph: (306) 778-8257
Fax: (306) 778-8271
E-mail: comm@swa.ca

**Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Nipawin Regional Office**
Box 2133
201 – 1st Avenue East
Nipawin, SK S0E 1E0
Ph: (306) 862-1750
Fax: (306) 862-1771
E-mail: comm@swa.ca

General information about the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, our programs, Fact Sheets and forms can be found on our website at www.swa.ca.