

Water Treatment Plant Regulation in Saskatchewan - Part 1



This information sheet is the first of a series intended to inform waterworks owners, managers and operators about provincial regulation of planning, building and operating a waterworks.

A Permit to Construct must be issued by Saskatchewan Environment for most new or altered waterworks before construction work begins. Obtaining a Permit to Construct ensures the proposed improvements meet regulatory requirements before construction begins.

Application forms for a Permit to Construct are available on the internet at: <http://www.saskh2o.ca/foroperators.asp> under the "Forms" heading. If you are unsure whether work you are doing needs construction permits or if you have any questions on water treatment plant regulation please call 306-787-6504 and ask to speak to an Approval Engineer in the Drinking Water Quality Section.

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You Need a Permit to Build or Alter Water Treatment Works

Saskatchewan Environment (SE) is the prime regulator of drinking water treatment plants in Saskatchewan. The department regulates all municipal "waterworks systems"; municipal wells connected to an underground distribution system; any pipeline directly connected to a municipal waterworks; pipelines not otherwise directly connected to a municipal waterworks with at least 15 service connections; and other waterworks with at capacity of 18 m³/day. New or altered water treatment plants, associated water distribution systems and pipelines as outlined above require a Permit to Construct from SE prior to commencing construction.

Why Do I Need a Permit?

Obtaining a Permit to Construct helps ensure the finished work meets regulations, prevents costly modifications to the newly constructed works and reduces the likelihood of compliance actions being imposed by Saskatchewan Environment. Public drinking water safety is improved by the permit process.

There is No Guarantee of A Permit

Saskatchewan Environment approves construction of treatment plants on a *case-by-case basis* by issuing a Permit to Construct for an individual project. No blanket Permit to Construct approval for installation of any type of treatment plant is given in Saskatchewan. Approvals are issued subject to compliance with the department's Guide to Waterworks Design, November 2002, EPB 201.

Will the Time Required to Issue a Permit Impact My Project?

Saskatchewan Environment typically issues permits within 45 days of receiving the application. If you need the permit faster than 45 days please state your timeline on the application and phone an Approvals Engineer to discuss the timeline. A complex project or an incomplete application can require more than 45 days for permit issuance. Build the permit timeline into your project schedule – planning ahead can ensure your project has a permit prior to construction. For larger staged projects, SE can often perform the permit review using the pre-design stage documents.

No Endorsement of Water Treatment Devices

Saskatchewan Environment does not endorse any water treatment device. Advertising by water treatment equipment manufacturers and designers is not verified or endorsed by SE.

Need for Certified Operators

The operation, maintenance and repair of a water treatment plant requires a certified operators at all times. This means at least one operator and in some cases a backup operator or access to a backup operator certified at a similar level. The required level of operator certification is based largely on plant complexity – a small complex treatment plant that has more treatment steps requires a higher level of operator certification than a simpler treatment plant. Waterworks owners need to understand that operators may need to undertake additional education, training and examination to operate new or upgraded complex plants even if the plant has a small capacity. Operators also need to undertake ongoing education to qualify for regular certificate renewal.

Cost for Annual Operation

A small complex treatment plant that has more treatment steps often requires a higher number of chemicals and more labour and has a higher overall operation and maintenance cost than a simpler treatment plant.

A False or Misleading Equipment Claim

If you believe a water treatment equipment manufacturer or designer has made a false or misleading claim regarding the ability of a device to treat drinking water at a SE-regulated facility, please call 306-787-6504 and ask to speak to an Approval Engineer in the Drinking Water Quality Section.