

**Appendix I - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority  
Surface Water Approval Fact Sheet**





## *Policy Statement*

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### *Purpose*

- The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority maintains a schedule of charges for the use of water by industries to reflect and emphasize the value of water, promote wise water usage and help offset the costs of managing our water resources.

### *Application of Charges*

- Charges are applied to industries using water for processing; mineral exploration and mining; oil exploration and recovery; manufacturing; gravel washing; hydraulic pressure testing; thermal power generation; and other purposes the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority may designate. The level of charge applied considers the use of the water and the source of the water.
- The following industries are currently exempt from charges:
  - (1) agricultural industrial water users including intensive livestock operations; and
  - (2) industries which are connected to and supplied water directly from municipal waterworks systems.

### *Measurement of Water Use*

- Industrial water users subject to water use charges are required to provide metering devices or other methods of water measurement acceptable to the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority;
- Except where waived in writing by the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, each industrial water user shall be required to collect data and maintain records of its water use;
- The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority may determine the water use charges in proportion to the amount of product produced by the industrial water user when there are unusual difficulties experienced in making suitable water measurement; and,
- In the event of a malfunction of the measuring device, or if the industrial water user fails to make proper measurements or to provide adequate records of water use, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority may estimate the quantity of water used.

- The standard unit of measurement is a thousand cubic metres which is equivalent to:
  - 35,314.5 cubic feet
  - 0.811 acre feet
  - 219,963 Imperial gallons
  - 264,170 U.S. gallons
  - 6,284.7 barrels
  - 733,210 kWh electrical generation by thermal power plants.

### ***Reporting Water Use***

- Unless otherwise required by the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, industrial water users shall submit monthly reports of water use on forms supplied for that purpose; and,
- All water use reports shall be completed accurately and sent to the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority not later than the tenth day of the following month or ten days following the measurement period authorized by the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.

### ***Schedule of Charges***

- Schedule “A” shows the rates charged for industrial water use.

### ***Billing Procedure and Payment***

- The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority may determine the billing period for each industrial water user; and,
- The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority will bill industrial water users for the billing period, on the basis of recorded or estimated water diversion.
- Payment of industrial water use charges shall be made within 30 days of the billing date; and,
- Late payments shall be subject to a surcharge of 1.5 per cent per month.

### ***Inspection of Works***

- From time to time, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority may undertake inspections of works or measuring devices and examine the water user’s records.

# Schedule “A”

## Industrial Water Use Charges

**January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008**

*(per 1,000 cubic metres)*

<i>Category of Water Use</i>	<i>Effective Date of Charge</i>	
	<b>January 1, 2007</b>	<b>January 1, 2008</b>
1. Water taken from the South Saskatchewan River, Lake Diefenbaker, Buffalo Pound Lake and the Qu’Appelle River	\$44.90	\$46.20
2. Water taken from any source, other than those listed in item 1, having TDS of 4,000 mg/L or less	\$14.36	\$14.78
3. Water taken from any source to be used as cooling water in thermal generation plants	\$14.36	\$14.78
4. Water taken from any source having TDS in excess of 4,000 mg/L, except water obtained from the Blairmore or deeper ground water formations	\$1.81	\$1.86

***Notes:***

- TDS is defined as total dissolved solids expressed as mg/L.
- The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority may, in cases where industries divert large quantities of water in relation to their consumptive use, and where the water is returned to its original source without significant impairment of its quality, determine that the charge will apply to a stated portion of the water diverted.
- The average annual CPI for 2008 has been calculated by averaging the monthly ratios of the CPI for the year 2007 to the year 2006.
- The January 1, 2008 rate is a 2.9% increase over the 2007 rate.

## ***Inquiries***

- General inquiries and requests for assistance should be directed to the nearest Saskatchewan Watershed Authority office:

**Saskatchewan Watershed Authority  
Head Office**

Victoria Place  
111 Fairford St. E.  
Moose Jaw, SK S6H 7X9  
Ph: (306) 694-3980  
Fax: (306) 694-3944  
E-mail: [comm@swa.ca](mailto:comm@swa.ca)

**Saskatchewan Watershed Authority  
Yorkton Regional Office**

2nd Floor, 120 Smith St. E.  
Yorkton, SK S3N 3V3  
Ph: (306) 786-1490  
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E-mail: [comm@swa.ca](mailto:comm@swa.ca)

**Saskatchewan Watershed Authority  
Weyburn Regional Office**

Box 2003  
3rd Floor, City Centre Mall  
110 Souris Ave.  
Weyburn, SK S4H 2Z9  
Ph: (306) 848-2345  
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**Saskatchewan Watershed Authority  
North Battleford Regional Office**

402 Royal Bank Tower  
1101 - 101st St.  
North Battleford, SK S9A 0Z5  
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**Saskatchewan Watershed Authority  
Swift Current Regional Office**

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Swift Current, SK S9H 4G3  
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**Saskatchewan Watershed Authority  
Nipawin Regional Office**

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201 - 1st Ave. E.  
Nipawin, SK S0E 1E0  
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General information about the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, our programs, Fact Sheets and forms can be found on our website at [www.swa.ca](http://www.swa.ca).



## *Fact Sheet*

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### ***Right to Use Surface Water Relating to Construction and/or Operation of Surface Water Diversion Works***

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority 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. Included in this mandate, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority has the responsibility for administering the approval process for the construction and operation of water supply diversion works, and the right to use surface water.

### ***Use of Surface Water Requires Approval***

An Approval to Construct leading to a Water Right and Approval to Operate is required for any works where water is to be diverted or impounded from or within its natural channel or bed. Works that will require approval would include irrigation projects, intensive livestock, multiuser, municipal or industrial water supply systems, dams and reservoirs for livestock, domestic, recreational and wildlife, or other water diversion schemes. By policy, any use which will consume greater than 5 cubic decameters (4 acre-feet) will require an approval.

**The viability of your project is important to you and to the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority. By planning well in advance for the approval and construction of your project, you will have assurance that a supply of water is available and allocated for your project.**

**DO NOT BEGIN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT BEFORE RECEIVING AN APPROVAL TO CONSTRUCT.**

No approval is required for any person who owns or occupies land which adjoins a body of surface water, providing the water is used for domestic or livestock purposes on the land, no works are constructed to impound or divert water to the land and the use is less than 5 cubic decameters (4 acre-feet). Dugouts constructed for the purpose of domestic and livestock needs are also exempt from requiring approval. (See Fact Sheet FS-315 for more information on domestic water use.)

### ***Requirements for the Acquisition of an Approval to Construct and/or Water Right and Approval Operate Works***

Contact the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority office for your region to discuss your project and deal with any questions or concerns they or you might have about the project. Staff will provide specific details on the viability and application requirements for your project.

A complete application consists of:

- an application form (RG-103) available from any Saskatchewan Watershed Authority office or the website;
- a non-refundable application fee (\$125 - \$400);
- detailed engineering plans describing the work proposed; and
- a project report for more complex works.

Engineered plan detail will vary depending on the project but should include such information as:

- water source name and location;
- pumphouse/diversion location, including intake screen details and design operating level;
- proposed diversion or pump flow rate;
- confirmation of soil-water compatibility, in the case of an irrigation project;
- pipeline, canal, ditch location, profile, and capacity details;
- detailed design for dams, reservoirs, weirs, sluiceways and diversion/bypass channels;
- road, railroad, and utility corridor crossing details;
- property boundaries and landowners of lands affected directly and indirectly; and
- point of use and details of equipment supplied by the water.

Upon receipt, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority will review the completed application package to:

- determine the availability of water at the point of diversion;
- identify any adverse watershed effects which may require special operating conditions;
- assess and classify any proposed dam or structure for safety, hazard, or impact;
- verify landownership and control; and
- identify any other requirements for the proponent to complete.

The proposal may be required to be advertised by posting of a notice to appear for 21 days in the local post office and Rural Municipality office, and/or by advertisement in the local newspaper for three (3) consecutive weeks. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority will provide the notice or advertisement documents and instructions. Any costs associated with posting or publishing of the notice is the responsibility of the proponent. Written objections toward the project as a result of advertising will be received by the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority for a period of 30 days from the posting date or first publication date. Any objections received will be discussed with, and may require mitigation by, the proponent.

The proponent will be required to have control of the lands on which the works are to be constructed or which may be affected by the construction or operation of the project. For lands on which surface works are constructed or which are flooded by construction of works to create a reservoir, adequate control is deemed to be deeded ownership or right-of-way; although the proponent may lease the property from the owner. The lease must be registered against the property title. For lands on which subsurface works are constructed or which are not permanently affected by flooding, adequate land control can be acquired through the use of easements.

A sanction or other crossing agreement will be required for works which affect highways, municipal roads, railroads, or other utility corridors permitting the installation of the proposed works. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority may, on behalf of the proponent, seek any necessary approval where a municipal road and/or provincial highway is affected.

Where the supply of water to the project is provided through the works of others, the proponent will require a water supply, use of works, or operation and maintenance agreements. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority may facilitate the acquisition of agreements where a provincial or federal agency is involved. For agreements with another individual, the proponent is advised to seek direction from a solicitor.

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority will, on behalf of the proponent, request response and clearance from other affected provincial or federal agencies, where clearance is required. Such clearances may include, Saskatchewan Environment, Saskatchewan Health, and The Heritage Resources Branch.

Any costs associated with plan preparation, sanctions, agreements or the conditions of a clearance are the responsibility of the proponent. Some federal and provincial programs may provide assistance for the preparation of plans and proposals.

### ***Approval to Construct and/or Operate***

When all legislative requirements have been met, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority will issue an Approval to Construct and construction can then begin on the project. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority will also register any Notices or Certificates against the land titles affected, pursuant to *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2005*. The Notice, when registered, ties the Approval to the land. A fee of \$60/title will be assessed for each Notice or Certificate registered on land titles.

When the project is complete, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority may confirm that construction is in accordance with the approved plans. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority may accept an engineer's report attesting to the construction of the project. The proponent may be responsible to provide record drawings of the completed project.

Upon confirmation of compliance of the project and plans the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority would issue a Water Rights Licence and an Approval to Operate Works. The Approval may be subject to a specified expiry date and conditions relating to the operation of the project.

## ***Need More Information?***

For more information, consult your nearest Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Regional Office.

### ***Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Regional Offices***

#### **Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Weyburn Regional Office**

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3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Centre Mall  
110 Souris Avenue  
Weyburn, SK S4H 2Z9  
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#### **Saskatchewan Watershed Authority North Battleford Regional Office**

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General information about the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, our programs, Fact Sheets and forms can be found on our website at [www.swa.ca](http://www.swa.ca).