



Water Treatment Plant Regulation in Saskatchewan - Part 1

You Need a Permit to Build or Alter Water Treatment Works

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

Why Do I Need a Permit?

Obtaining a Permit to Construct helps ensure the finished work meets provincial regulatory requirements, prevents costly modifications to the newly constructed works and reduces the likelihood of compliance actions being imposed undertaken by the Water Security Agency. Reviewing applications and issuing Permits to Construct are tools that the WSA uses to improve the safety of public drinking water in the province.

There is No Guarantee of A Permit

The WSA 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 agency’s Waterworks Design Standard, June 2015, EPB 501.

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

The WSA typically issues permits within 45 days of receiving all the required information for 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 may require more than 45 days for a complete review and issuance of a Permit to Construct. Build the permit timeline into your project schedule – planning ahead can ensure your project is not delayed while waiting for the permit prior to construction. For larger staged projects, the WSA can often perform the permit review using the pre-design stage documents and issue Permits to Construct for individual phases in order to speed up the review process.

No Endorsement of Water Treatment Devices

The WSA does not endorse any water treatment device. Advertising by water treatment equipment manufacturers and designers is not verified or endorsed by the WSA.

Need for Certified Operators

The operation, maintenance and repair of a water treatment plant needs to be under the direction of 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 certification 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 WSA-regulated facility, please call 306-787-0726 and ask to speak to an Approval Engineer in the Environmental and Municipal Management Services Division.