

EPB 417 - Parallel Growth Policy: Assisting Infrastructure Growth In Saskatchewan

This factsheet applies to communities planning to grow that do not have adequate infrastructure to serve that growth and will ensure drinking water and sewage treatment infrastructure is not overloaded by that new growth.

The Province of Saskatchewan is undergoing significant population and community growth. As the province grows, the Water Security Agency (WSA) will work to assist communities ensure their drinking water and sewage works expand to accommodate this growth while meeting public health and environmental protection goals.

The WSA evaluates applications and issues permits that regulate the construction and operation of drinking water and sewage works in the province. As well, the WSA provides comments to the Community Planning Branch of the Ministry of Government Relations, the ministry responsible for subdivision review and approval.

The WSA has adopted a 'parallel growth' method of regulating expansion of drinking water and sewage facilities like water or sewer mains and treatment plants. This method allows communities to apply to expand while ensuring adequate water and sewage infrastructure will be in place to service the new growth.

Parallel growth refers to issuing a Permit for Construction of Waterworks or Sewage Works for growth-related projects like water mains or sewer mains in new subdivisions and allowing expanded water or sewage treatment works to be built in the same time frame. For example, a sewage collection system can be planned and built at the same time as you are expanding your lagoon infrastructure to support the increased loading caused by population growth.

In order to meet the WSA's approach to parallel growth, owners of all works need to provide the following information:

- 1) A written statement of intent to upgrade or expand the deficient works, such as an overloaded lagoon. This statement usually takes the form of an order in council.
- 2) A detailed timeline for the engineering and construction of all works. This timeline should include key dates such as when: preliminary design will be complete, when detailed design will be complete, when construction will start, and when construction will be complete, etc; and
- 3) A financial plan endorsed by a Chartered Accountant or an auditor showing capability to pay for the required upgrade or expansion of the deficient works. Funding may only be included as part of the financial plan if the funding is already approved.

The information must be submitted to an Approvals Engineer with the WSA for approval. Where approvals of subdivisions are involved, copies of approved commitments must be sent to the Community Planning Branch of the Ministry of Government Relations. In addition, the Saskatchewan Municipal Board needs to receive a copy of the approved commitment.

The WSA will place the parallel growth commitments into the community's Permit to Operate a Waterworks or Sewage Works. Failure to comply with the parallel growth commitments may result in enforcement activities.