

Parallel Growth Policy: Assisting Infrastructure Growth In Saskatchewan



This factsheet applies to communities planning to expand that do not have adequate infrastructure to serve that expansion, and will ensure water and sewer 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 Ministry of Environment (Environment) will work to assist communities ensure their drinking water and sewage works to expand to accommodate this growth while meeting public health and environmental protection goals. Communities are aware that the cost of building water and sewer infrastructure is increasing and are building water and sewer infrastructure now to allow future growth such as subdivision expansion.

Environment evaluates applications and issues Permits to Construct for drinking water and sewage works. As well, Environment provides comment to Community Planning Branch at Ministry of Municipal Affairs (Municipal Affairs) who are responsible for subdivision review and approval. .

Environment has adopted a 'parallel growth' method of regulating expansion of drinking water and sewer facilities like subdivision mainlines and treatment plants. This method allows communities to expand while ensuring adequate water and sewer infrastructure will be in place.

Parallel growth refers to issuing a Permit to Construct for growth-related projects like mainlines in new subdivisions and allowing expanded water or wastewater treatment works to be built in the same time frame. For example, a distribution system can be planned and built at the same time as you are building your water supply infrastructure to support the new development.

In order to meet Environment's approach to parallel growth, owners of all works need to provide written commitment in the form of: :

- 1) A written statement of intent to Environment to build treatment or other required works. This letter would be written by the long-term owner of the treatment or other required works; and
- 2) A written statement showing the timeline for construction of all works. The timeline must display that there will not be an unacceptable load increase on water or wastewater works such as conveyance and treatment and disposal facilities. In the case of a new subdivision, Environment requests a written timeline by the long-term owner for construction of treatment works, and a written timeline from the developer for construction of the collection works to be built in the subdivision; and
- 3) A written statement showing capability to pay for the proposed conveyance, treatment and disposal works. This may include all typical funding sources and grants if approved by the funding agency.

The written statements should be attached to Environment applications for Permit to Construct. Where subdivisions are involved, copies of commitments may also be sent to Municipal Affairs as the Community Planning Branch will also need to see that the water and sewer works improvements are planned and adequately financed before approving any new subdivision that would increase demand on the facility.

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