

**Irrigation Development Policy**  
**Agricultural Crown Land**  
**February 2022**

**A. Purpose**

To clarify development of irrigation infrastructure on or through agricultural Crown land.

**B. Authority**

Section 2-23(1) of *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016* and Section 6-2 of *The Provincial Lands (Agriculture) Regulations*, require lessees to obtain written authorization prior to constructing or altering improvements on their leased agricultural Crown land.

**C. Process**

Crops and Irrigation Branch (CIB) is the main point of contact for irrigation development in the province. CIB will coordinate with other agencies involved in the review or approvals throughout the process. The Irrigation Development Process is found on [saskatchewan.ca](http://saskatchewan.ca). CIB will ensure all other approvals are obtained by the project proponent prior to issuing the Irrigation Certificate.

If the lessee chooses not to use CIB technical services, the lessee will send a completed Application to Construct Improvements to the Land Management Specialist. A resource document is available on the Irrigation [website](#) that provides information for lessees on which additional documents are required for projects.

**D. Irrigation Developments**

**1. General**

- Duty to Consult is required to be reviewed consistent with *The First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework* for developments involving vacant agricultural Crown land. Consultations with First Nations and Métis communities may result in project changes or ineligibility.
- Lessee consent is required to cross land for developments involving occupied agricultural Crown land.
- Cultivation or conversion of native prairie is prohibited and will not be approved on agricultural Crown lands. Disturbing native prairie for the development of irrigation pipelines and pump sites may be permitted on a case-by-case basis.
- Lands Branch involvement in the project will no longer be required if during project development, the irrigation project route changes and agricultural Crown land is no longer affected.
- Any adjustments to the disposition acres or production states will be completed after CIB issues an Irrigation Certificate and has completed the as constructed survey and inspection.

## 2. Pivots

- Lands Branch written authorization is required prior to development of pivot(s) on agricultural Crown land.
- Lands Branch requires the applicant to provide an irrigation plan that details all the land (deeded and leased) that will be impacted by the irrigation development.
  - CIB will provide Lands Branch with the irrigation plan for those proposals being developed with the technical assistance of CIB (Step 2 of the Irrigation Development Process).

## 3. Irrigation Pipelines

- Written authorization will be provided once the project proposal and sketch has been reviewed, Duty to Consult is complete (if applicable) and lessee consent is provided (if applicable).
  - CIB will provide Lands Branch with the irrigation plan for proposals being developed with the technical assistance of CIB (Step 2 of the Irrigation Development Process).
- All information contained within the Lands Branch Easement Policy applies to Irrigation Pipeline Easements, with the exception of:
  - Term lengths for irrigation pipeline easements are 99 years;
  - Legal surveys are not required; and
  - The pipeline easement right-of-way width is 15 meters.
- Lessees are encouraged to register easement(s) on the parcel with Information Services Corporation at [www.ISC.ca](http://www.ISC.ca)

## 4. Pump Sites

- Written authorization will be provided once the project proposal and sketch have been reviewed, Duty to Consult is complete (if applicable), and lessee consent is provided (if applicable).
  - CIB will provide Lands Branch with the irrigation plan for proposals being developed with the technical assistance of CIB (Step 2 of the Irrigation Development Process).
- Pump sites constructed on native prairie will follow current oil and gas industry development practices for surface disturbance and restoration.
- Pump sites are required to be fenced on grazing land to exclude livestock.
- Additional signage and fencing may be required to comply with provincial regulations.

Visit [saskatchewan.ca/crownlands](http://saskatchewan.ca/crownlands) for more information or to contact your local regional office.