



# Environmental Review Guidelines for Oil and Gas Activities

September 2022

## FOREWORD

This document provides a description of the Ministry of Environment's (the ministry) environmental review of oil and gas activities and outlines the appropriate level of review required for various types of oil and gas projects in Saskatchewan. The guideline has been developed cooperatively between the Fish, Wildlife and Lands Branch Lands Unit and the Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch (EASB) and is intended to clarify their respective roles during the review of oil and gas projects. This document also includes guidelines for the preparation of an Oil and Gas Project Proposal (OGP), which proponents will submit to either the Lands Unit or EASB for review.

Experience regulating the oil and gas sector has allowed the ministry to provide clear direction on regulatory processes and to standardize environmental review for oil and gas projects. The ministry is committed to:

- ensuring development proceeds in a sustainable manner that protects the environment and human health and safety;
- ensuring a transparent process easily accessible by all stakeholders including the public, industry clients, and others; and
- applying lean principles that lead to efficiencies in the delivery of ministry services.

The ministry's transition to a results-based regulatory framework refined how the EASB conducts business. The modernized Environmental Assessment (EA) process came into force in 2012 and has been applied to all project applications since that time. Oil and gas projects with no or relatively minor environmental impacts are reviewed by the Lands Unit. Higher risk projects with the potential for significant environmental impacts are reviewed by EASB. This has resulted in faster review and processing times of OGP's and reduced costs to proponents in obtaining approvals. Lower-risk projects are still subject to permitting and licensing by the ministry and other ministries or agencies. Proposals submitted to other regulating bodies can still be referred to EASB for review, if required.

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## 1.0 Introduction

*The Environmental Assessment Act* (Saskatchewan) (the Act) and related guidelines provide for a coordinated review of potential environmental impacts associated with projects in the province. Many proposals pertaining to all aspects of oil and gas exploration, development and transportation undergo environmental review each year. This environmental review allows potential impacts of a proposed project to be identified, documented and evaluated. It also identifies opportunities to avoid, minimize or eliminate adverse effects and enhance positive effects of a project. In so doing, unnecessary environmental impacts are avoided and proponents may also avoid costly delays associated with repairing environmental damage. A risk-based review process to evaluate oil and gas projects as well as careful project planning contribute to achieving desired environmental outcomes and reducing cost and delays for proponents.

In order to meet the expectations of our clients and to ensure EASB practices reflect the direction of the ministry, this guidance document clarifies review requirements for oil and gas proponents in the province. It is intended to inform the proponent when an OGP is to be submitted to the Lands Unit and when it needs to be submitted to EASB.

## 2.0 Reviewing and Assessing Environmental Impacts

EASB uses a risk-based approach when reviewing oil and gas proposals, which focuses on projects that have the potential to significantly impact the environment. Projects with no or relatively minor environmental concerns may proceed following review by the Lands Unit, without a need for further review from EASB. Projects with the potential to result in more significant environmental impacts will require review by EASB prior to proceeding to the subsequent licensing/permitting phase. Figure 1 outlines the applicable ministry guidelines and the relevant branch responsible for review of an OGP.

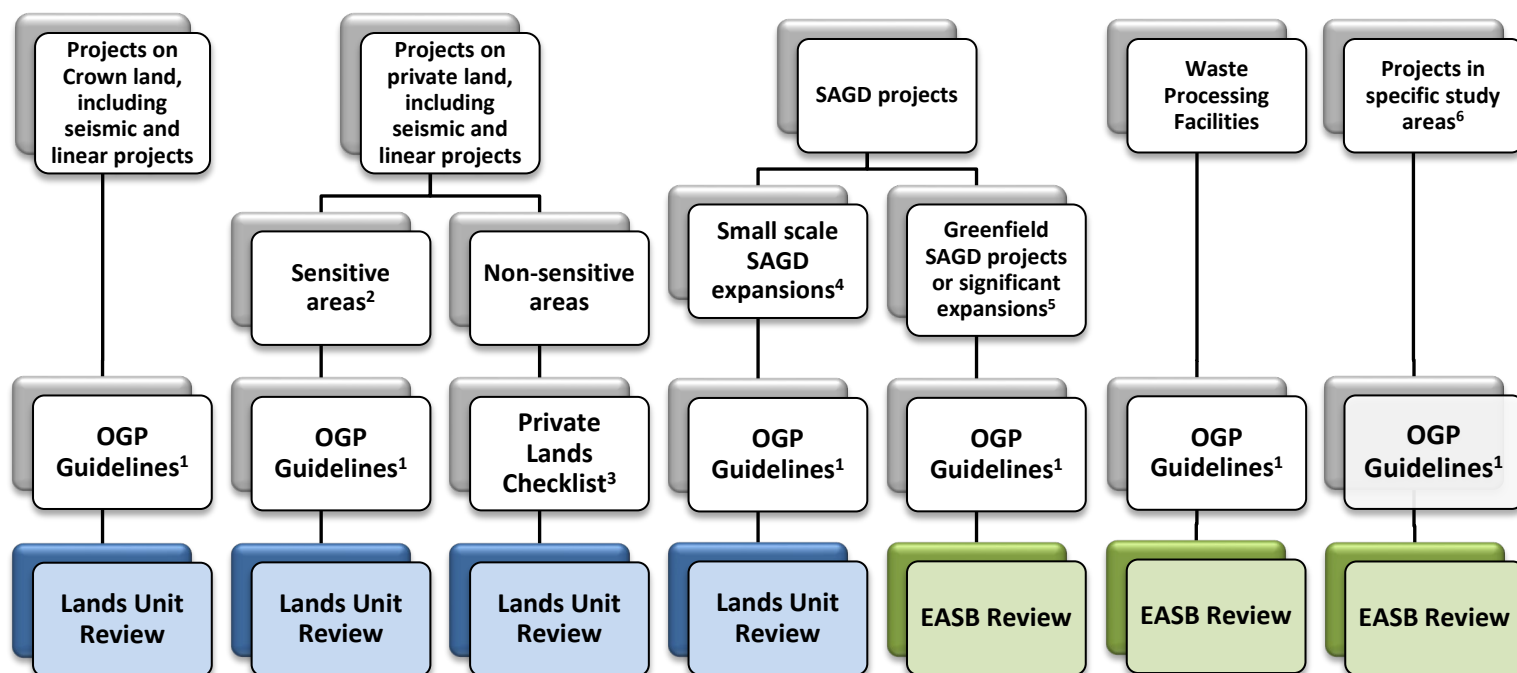


Figure 1 – Environmental Review Requirements for Oil and Gas Projects

*Figure 1 Notes:*

- 1) *Guidelines for the Preparation of an Oil and Gas Project Proposal (Appendix A).*
- 2) *Sensitive areas as described in section 2.3.*
- 3) *Environmental Evaluation Checklists for Oil and Gas, Seismic and Linear Development Projects on Private Land in Saskatchewan (Private Lands Checklists, Appendix B).*
- 4) *Small scale expansions to existing steam assisted gravity drainage (SAGD) projects not located in, or having potential to impact sensitive areas, should be submitted to the Lands Unit for review. Small scale SAGD expansion project examples may include well pad expansions, sustaining wells, infill production wells on existing well pads and new well pads on non-sensitive lands.*
- 5) *Expansion of SAGD projects impacting sensitive areas, resulting in significant production or water consumption increases or proposing a change from standard SAGD technology should be submitted to EASB for review.*
- 6) *Study areas as described in the Great Sand Hills Regional Environmental Study and the Manitou Sand Hills Integrated Resource Management Plan.*

## 2.1 Projects to be reviewed by the Lands Unit

- Crown land, including seismic and linear projects: For projects located on Crown land, proponents should use the *Guidelines for the Preparation of an Oil and Gas Project Proposal* (Appendix A). These projects will be reviewed by the Lands Unit.

- Steam-assisted gravity drainage project expansions or ancillary projects not impacting sensitive areas, resulting in significant production or water consumption increases, or proposing a change from standard SAGD technology (i.e. introduction of solvents or gas with steam, etc.) will be reviewed by the Lands Unit. Proponents should use the *Guidelines for the Preparation of an Oil and Gas Project Proposal* (Appendix A).
- Private land, including seismic and linear projects:
  - In sensitive areas (see section 2.3), proponents should use the *Guidelines for the Preparation of an Oil and Gas Project Proposal* (Appendix A).
  - In non-sensitive areas, proponents should use the *Environmental Evaluation Checklists for Oil and Gas, Seismic and Linear Development Projects on Private Lands in Saskatchewan* (Private Land Checklists, Appendix B).
  - Linear projects (e.g. pipelines, flowlines) with a length greater than 1600 meters should use the *Guidelines for the Preparation of an Oil and Gas Project Proposal* (Appendix A).

Prior to preparation and submission of an OGP, proponents are encouraged to discuss the scope of their project with an Ecological Management Specialist with the Lands Unit.

## 2.2 Projects to be reviewed by EASB

- SAGD projects: Proponents of Greenfield SAGD projects or SAGD expansion projects impacting sensitive areas (including wetlands and native prairie), resulting in significant increase in production or water consumption, or proposing a change in production methods from standard SAGD technology should use the *Guidelines for the Preparation of an Oil and Gas Project Proposal* (Appendix A). Proponents of these projects must submit their OGP directly to EASB for review.
- Oil and gas waste processing facilities: Proponents of waste processing facilities should use the *Guidelines for the Preparation of an Oil and Gas Project Proposal* (Appendix A). Proponents must submit their OGP directly to EASB for review.
- Great Sand Hills and Manitou Sand Hills<sup>1</sup>: Proponents of projects in the Great Sand Hills and Manitou Sand Hills study areas should use the *Guidelines for the Preparation of an Oil and Gas Project Proposal* (Appendix A). Proponents must submit their OGP directly to EASB for review.

The Lands Unit and all other regulatory agencies have the option to refer projects to EASB if there are potential significant environmental impacts or issues outside of their ability to regulate the activity. The ministry retains the discretion to request an OGP be submitted for review prior to initiating a review of permit applications. EASB will screen an OGP to determine the applicability of *The Environmental Assessment Act* (found at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/environmental-protection-and->

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<sup>1</sup>For information on best management practices (BMPs) for proposed projects in the Great Sand Hills, refer to the *Great Sand Hills Regional Environmental Study* found at: .

*sustainability/environmental-assessment/does-my-project-need-an-environmental-assessment*). The ministry will require an environmental impact assessment (EIA) for projects that trigger one or more of the criteria defining a development in section 2(d) of the Act.

The Act defines development to mean any project, operation or activity, or any alteration or expansion of any project, operation or activity, which is likely to:

- have an effect on any unique, rare or endangered feature of the environment;
- substantially utilize any provincial resource, and in doing so, pre-empt the use, or potential use of that resource for any other purpose;
- cause the emission of any pollutants or create by-products, residual or waste products, which require handling and disposal in a manner that is not regulated by any other Act or regulation;
- cause widespread public concern because of potential environmental changes;
- involve a new technology that is concerned with resource utilization and that may induce significant environmental change; or
- have a significant impact on the environment or necessitate a further development, which is likely to have a significant impact on the environment.

Figure 2 outlines the EA process for projects, which are deemed a development and are required to undergo an EIA.



Figure 2. Environmental Assessment Process Overview

### 2.3 Sensitive Geographic Areas

Oil and gas projects located in the geographic areas listed below will be screened by Ecological Management Specialists in the Lands Unit. Proponents should be aware that they may be asked to submit their OGP to EASB if the potential for significant environmental impacts is identified during initial review of a proposal. Examples of sensitive geographic areas include:

- Webb, Burstall, Cabri and Elbow sand hills;
- Other sand hills complexes;
- Cypress Hills Uplands;
- Frenchman River valley and contiguous native grassland and ravine complexes;
- South Saskatchewan River valley and contiguous native grassland and ravine complexes;
- North Saskatchewan River valley and contiguous native grassland and ravine complexes;
- Big Muddy valley and contiguous native grassland and ravine complexes;
- Locations directly affecting the valley walls and/or floodplain of any river;
- Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WSHRN) sites (Chaplin, Reed, Old Wives and Quill lakes);

- Old Man On His Back Prairie and Heritage Conservation Area (Butala Ranch Nature Conservancy area);
- Grand Cheviot Co-op Pasture;
- Cold Lake Air Weapons Range;
- Whitewood Integrated Resource Management Area;
- Native grassland, wetlands and other previously undisturbed areas;
- Significant projects within the Provincial Forest;
- Lands listed under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* when more than 4 wells per quarter section are proposed (*The Wildlife Habitat Land Disposition and Alteration Regulations*);
- Projects that affect any land with a special designation (e.g., Conservation Easement, Game Preserve, Ecological Reserve, Fish Wildlife Development Fund Land, Provincial Park, Recreation Site, Regional Park, Qu'Appelle Implementation, Rafferty or Alameda Mitigation Land, Representative Areas Network sites, community pastures in native prairie, and federal critical habitat as defined by *The Species at Risk Act*); and
- Projects in areas of sensitive habitat essential to the survival and recovery of SOCC (e.g., short shrub grassland, boreal forest with high quality woodland caribou habitat).

This list is not exhaustive and projects in other locations may also be referred to EASB if sensitive areas may be impacted.

### 3.0 Summary

This document is intended to provide clarity to proponents around the role of the Lands Unit and EASB when an OGP is submitted.

As illustrated in Figure 1, the majority of OGPs will be reviewed by the Lands Unit including projects with no or relatively minor environmental impacts. Higher-risk projects with the potential for significant environmental impacts will be reviewed by EASB. This approach allows projects to be reviewed and processed in a timely fashion while reducing costs to proponents in obtaining approvals.

A risk-based review process to evaluate oil and gas projects as well as careful project planning contribute to achieving desired environmental outcomes and reducing cost and delays for proponents.

This document is a guideline only. In all cases, proponents must ensure that their project complies with all applicable provincial and federal legislative and regulatory requirements and obtain all applicable regulatory permits, approvals and licenses prior to construction.

## APPENDIX A

# GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF AN OIL AND GAS PROJECT PROPOSAL

## 1.0 Background

These guidelines provide information to proponents of oil and gas projects for the preparation of their Oil and Gas Project Proposal (OGP) for submission to the Ministry of Environment (the ministry). OGP's will be submitted to Ecological Management Specialists with the Lands Unit, with the exception of Greenfield SAGD projects, significant SAGD expansion projects, waste processing facilities and projects located in the Great Sand Hills or Manitou Sand Hills, which must be submitted to the Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch (EASB) for review.

The OGP must provide comprehensive project information, identify potential environmental impacts associated with the project and summarize proposed mitigation measures. This will allow the ministry to conduct a detailed screening of the project and confirm whether or not the project has the potential to cause significant environmental impacts or otherwise trigger one or more of the criteria defining a development in section 2(d) of *The Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). Ecological Management Specialists (See section 4.0) with the Lands Unit will refer the OGP to the EASB if there are potential significant environmental impacts or issues outside of their ability to regulate the activity. If insufficient information has been provided in the OGP, the proponent will be required to provide additional information before a Ministerial Determination can be made. This may result in delays and additional costs to the proponent. If the project is determined to be a development under section 2(d) of the Act, the project will be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Further information on submission requirements for submissions to EASB can be found in the [Technical Proposal Guidelines](#). These can be found by searching 'Environmental Assessment Guidelines' at [www.saskatchewan.ca](http://www.saskatchewan.ca).

Environmentally responsible and sustainable development must be an important project goal. Environmental planning can make projects with the potential for significant environmental concerns more sustainable while also meeting the proponent's other needs. If the concerns with a project are addressed in the OGP and the proponent demonstrates to the ministry's satisfaction that the project does not meet any of the criteria defining a development, then the project will not be required to undergo an EIA. The OGP becomes the proponent's opportunity to demonstrate an awareness of the potential environmental impacts and describe how the project has been designed to prevent, minimize or otherwise mitigate potential environmental impacts.

An OGP must provide a reasonable understanding of the project, the environment into which it is to be placed, potential impacts associated with the project and the mitigation measures that

the proponent will take to address these impacts. Types of information and level of detail required in an OGP depends on several factors including: project nature, size and location; availability of existing information; significance of potential impacts and the degree of uncertainty associated with these impacts; and the level of public concern. Proponents should consider each of these factors carefully when planning and preparing the OGP. Proponents are encouraged to discuss the scope of their OGP with an Ecological Management Specialist with the Lands Unit prior to preparation and submission of the OGP. The OGP should be prepared by professionals with expertise in the areas of concern.

OGPs may be subject to comprehensive review by provincial and federal agencies. OGPs are public documents and may be provided to municipal governments, the public and public-advocacy groups when public interest or concern is anticipated. Proponents should identify information such as business plans or proprietary technology that they wish to remain confidential prior to submission of the OGP.

## 2.0 Information Required in an OGP

The following sections outline the types of information that should be included in an OGP. These guidelines do not prescribe a format, but can be viewed as a checklist organized into a logical progression for presentation. Information presented in one section should not be repeated if a subsequent section refers to the same topic.

This document is a guideline only. In all cases, proponents must ensure that their project complies with all applicable provincial and federal legislative and regulatory requirements and obtain all applicable regulatory permits, approvals and licenses prior to construction.

OGP submissions to EASB for waste processing facilities and SAGD facilities have additional information requirements. These requirements are outlined in subsection 2.10.

Proponents should consider including an executive summary in the OGP submission. Executive summaries should summarize the purpose of the proposed project, proposed actions, length of the project, project location and habitat types, potential environmental impacts, and mitigation measures.

### 2.1 Introduction

This section identifies the proponent and summarizes the project. It outlines the project schedule, provides the location and identifies any relationships to other projects and land uses in the same area. This section also identifies key project personnel and states the number and type of people to be employed. The proponent must describe the rationale for the project as well as the project's impacts, both positive and negative.

## 2.2 Project Description

This section provides a clear and comprehensive description of the complete project. All phases of the project for which you are seeking approval must be included. The project description should answer the questions: what, when, where and how, by focusing on:

- **Project Description** – include all proposed works and activities directly related to the project (i.e., works or activities that are likely to proceed if the main project proceeds). For exploratory drilling, only access and drilling need to be addressed. For production projects, describe drilling, temporary and permanent access, power, fuel and water supply, other ancillary facilities, production plans, product removal and waste management. Where production plans are not available, options should be discussed.
- **Project Location** – describe the immediate project location and show that you have identified and tried to avoid environmentally sensitive locations in siting project facilities. Additional information on project location and associated protection measures should be presented in the Environmental Setting and Impact Management and Protection Measures sections of the OGP.

Descriptions of project location must be geo-referenced and supported by maps (minimum 1:50,000 scale), drawings, legal surveys, contour plans, photographs, aerial photography or similar means showing (as appropriate):

- existing and planned linear features (e.g., seismic lines, access roads, power and pipe lines);
  - proposed site infrastructure (e.g., borrow pits, temporary work camps if on Crown land);
  - extra working space (where required);
  - environmental constraints and/or sensitive environmental areas (e.g., steep or sensitive terrain, surface water, trees/shrubs, nesting sites, native vegetation, wetlands and other pertinent details); and
  - other nearby projects or existing infrastructure.
- **Schedule** – estimated/planned start and completion dates of construction and anticipated project life.
  - **Options Considered** – where options exist, identify the alternatives and describe briefly why the preferred option was chosen and others were not. For instance, describe why a particular site or access route was selected or why specific procedures such as vertical vs directional drilling were chosen. Such evaluations are particularly important if the preferred option is likely to result in environmental impacts.
  - **Required Inputs** – identify resource inputs such as water or natural gas, along with the amount to be used, source(s) and means of transport for construction, start-up, or operations

- **Project Outputs** – describe products, reusable materials, and wastes. Explain clearly how project outputs will be managed and what special risks, if any, they pose. Constituents of predicted waste streams should be provided; and if wastes are to be disposed of via deep well injection, project and site-specific information regarding compatibility of wastes with the receiving formation must be included. Toxic or hazardous materials or substances incompatible with the receiving formation will not be approved for deep well disposal.

### 2.3 Environmental Setting

This section describes the area where you propose to place the project. The amount of information on any particular topic will depend on the project, the characteristics of the area and potential for environmental impacts. While existing data may be useful, up-to-date information based on new field work is preferred. When planning for the project, it is important to consider species detection surveys are valid for two years. The environmental setting should describe:

- **Geology and Geography** – document principal geologic and geographic features of the project area including any rare or unique features. Identify sensitive areas such as steep slopes, water bodies, wetlands, riparian areas, near-surface aquifers, and groundwater resources in and near the project.
- **Soils** – describe soils in areas directly affected by the project, especially highly erodible or “problem” soils.
- **Vegetation** – document the principal plant communities and species at the project site. Conduct a preliminary evaluation to determine if there are any habitats in the project area with high potential to support rare plants. Such habitats will include native grasslands, wetlands, riparian areas and other areas with native or previously undisturbed vegetation communities. Agricultural fields and recently disturbed areas are unlikely habitats for rare plants. If there are potential habitats for rare plants, either conduct rare plant surveys or conduct a “risk assessment” to determine the potential for each identified habitat to support rare plants<sup>1</sup> (Appendix C).

Rare plant surveys would not normally be required for projects in the boreal forest. Contact an Ecological Management Specialist for direction on whether or not rare plant surveys will be required on specific projects in the boreal forest. Proponents with projects in the boreal forest should focus on describing the general vegetation

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<sup>1</sup>Rare plants shall include those plants listed as endangered or threatened under *The Wild Species at Risk Regulations* (Saskatchewan) and other species of concern. Other species of concern shall include: S1 and S2 species listed by the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre ([www.biodiversity.sk.ca/](http://www.biodiversity.sk.ca/)); species listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern under the *Species at Risk Act* (Canada), and species listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

communities and how the site will be rehabilitated, following the lifespan of the project, to resemble a renewing forest after natural disturbance.

- **Wildlife** – document the principal wildlife species at the project site. Conduct a preliminary evaluation to determine if there are any habitats in the project area with high potential to support rare wildlife<sup>1</sup>. Such habitats will include native grasslands and other native vegetation. Agricultural fields and recently disturbed areas are unlikely habitats for a majority of rare wildlife, but they may provide suitable habitat for rare migratory birds. Rare wildlife surveys will be required if the project area contains suitable habitat for rare wildlife and the project can't be designed to avoid impacts to rare wildlife. Impacts may occur where project activities are scheduled when rare wildlife species are active, or where the project destroys or damages rare wildlife species habitat.

Conduct migratory bird surveys if the project area contains potential habitat for any migratory bird species and project activities are to occur in the season when migratory birds<sup>2</sup> are active. Contact an Ecological Management Specialist with the Lands Unit for direction on whether or not a migratory bird survey will be required.

- **Wildlife Habitat and Habitat Potential** – evaluate the habitat value of land that the project will affect. This includes the fish habitat potential of affected streams or water bodies<sup>3</sup>. Project effects may extend up to one kilometre from the project site. Lands within *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* (Saskatchewan) or other special-area designation should be identified and project implications for the habitat or other ecological features considered. Discuss specific wildlife concerns with Ecological Management Specialists with the Lands Unit during OGP scoping.

For projects where the number of wells will exceed four wells per quarter section on lands listed in *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*<sup>4</sup>, describe mitigation measures that

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<sup>1</sup>Rare wildlife shall include those species listed as endangered or threatened under *The Wild Species at Risk Regulations* (Saskatchewan); aquatic species and migratory bird species listed as endangered or threatened under the *Species at Risk Act* (Canada), and other species of concern. Other species of concern shall include: S1 and S2 species listed by the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre ([www.biodiversity.sk.ca/](http://www.biodiversity.sk.ca/)); species other than aquatic species and migratory bird species listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern under the *Species at Risk Act*; aquatic species and migratory bird species listed as species of special concern under the *Species at Risk Act*; and species listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern by the COSEWIC.

<sup>2</sup>Under the *Migratory Birds Regulations* (Canada), it is an offence to disturb, destroy, or take a nest, egg, nest shelter, eider duck shelter, or duck box of any migratory bird, whether or not the species fits the definition of rare as identified in this document.

<sup>3</sup>Activities which may alter or destroy fish habitat or affect a navigable waterway may be subject to review and permitting requirement(s) from Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

<sup>4</sup>This is a requirement of Section 7(6)(b) of *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act / The Wildlife Habitat Lands Disposition and Alteration Regulations*.

will be taken to ensure that the project will not seriously jeopardize the wildlife habitat land.

- **Cultural Resources and Development Pressures** – describe archeological or heritage resources at the project site<sup>1</sup>. Document past, current and known future development projects, land uses and activities in the project area whose effects may interact with those of the project under review.
- **Other** – evaluate any other environmental considerations that are identified for each project location (i.e. air quality, noise, etc.). In sensitive areas, the proponent should identify production and maintenance related activities, such as expected traffic volume, well maintenance programs, weed management, etc.

Key topics and the appropriate level of detail for each topic will depend on the project and its location. Proponents should discuss the scope of their OGP with Ecological Management Specialists with the Lands Unit prior to initiating work on the OGP. Proponents are responsible for assessing the habitat and potential for species in a project area and conducting the appropriate pre-construction surveys for rare and sensitive species.

## 2.4 Potential Impacts

Describe how the project may affect each of the project area's environmental features discussed in the Environmental Setting section (see Section 2.3). Level of detail and the geographic scope will depend on the nature and scale of the project and the feature(s) of interest. Consider potential impacts of each project phase addressed in the OGP (exploration, construction, operation, decommissioning), as appropriate, and how these may be affected by existing or known future projects and activities in the project area.

The OGP must indicate if potential impacts are not adequately understood. Any additional information required to properly understand project impacts must be identified and any planned studies, monitoring or other measures to collect essential information must be described in detail.

## 2.5 Impact Management and Protection Measures (Mitigation)

Describe specific measures that will be taken to avoid or mitigate identified potential impacts. Measures to avoid impacts should be emphasized, followed by a description of how impacts that cannot be avoided will be minimized to the extent possible. Consideration of alternatives is an important means of avoiding and managing impacts, particularly in situations where some impacts will remain following mitigation (see Section 2.6 Residual Impacts). Mitigation measures should be in a format which can be used by field construction personnel.

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<sup>1</sup>A Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (HRIA) may be required. Contact the Heritage Conservation Branch, Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport about heritage-resource concerns and assessment requirements.

The OGP must detail how the following types of mitigation measures will be incorporated (as appropriate) by describing in detail:

- How the project has been scheduled to avoid seasonal conflicts (e.g., nesting and spawning, important wildlife winter habitat areas; and spring break-up).
- How impacts of project access will be reduced (e.g., by using existing roads, trails or natural features). Explain what alternatives were considered; why they were or were not used and why any new or upgraded access is necessary.
- How project locations were chosen to avoid or reduce impacts. Explain what alternatives were considered and why they were or were not used.
- How the equipment and construction methods chosen will reduce or avoid impacts. How will the ground surface be protected (e.g., no stripping, padding, winter construction)? Identify alternatives considered and explain why they were or were not used.
- How disturbed areas will be reclaimed. Provide specific details (as appropriate) for:
  - Scheduling;
  - Erosion-control methods;
  - Seeding (seed mixes, seed source and quality control, seeding methods and rates);
  - Tree or shrub plantings (source, numbers, species, spacing);
  - Fencing;
  - Weed control; and
  - Monitoring and follow up measures.
- How wastes and byproducts will be managed, stored, transported, reused and/or disposed is regulated by the Ministry of Energy and Resources. Detailed plans are required only if the project will not follow the standardized practices described in the following guidelines:
  - a) *Saskatchewan Drilling Waste Management Guidelines* (Ministry of the Energy and Resources, Petroleum Development Branch Information Guideline GL 99-01. 1999, revised 2011).
  - b) *Directive S-01: Saskatchewan Upstream Petroleum Industry Storage Standards* (Ministry of Energy and Resources, revised 2015).
- Any wastes which may be “waste dangerous goods” must be identified and a management plan proposed.
- How you plan to deal with any unique aspects or impacts of your project.
- How you will identify and mitigate impacts that will likely result from the project, and plans for collecting any additional information required to properly understand project impacts.

- How you will deal with unexpected events, such as:
  - a) Spills;
  - b) Fire; and/or
  - c) Unpredictable weather (e.g., heavy rain, flooding, breakup, severe cold, drought, wind).

## 2.6 Residual Impacts

The OGP must identify and describe project impacts that will remain after all the proposed mitigation measures have been implemented. Environmental significance of these residual impacts to feature(s) of interest should be evaluated (scale, magnitude, duration).

It is recommended that the OGP include a table summarizing potential impacts, describing proposed mitigation measures and identifying impacts that will or are likely to remain after mitigation.

## 2.7 Environmental Monitoring

This section describes plans for monitoring during construction, operation and decommissioning. Monitoring plans consider the project's Impact Management and Protection Measures (section 2.5) and the Residual Impacts (section 2.6) described in the OGP. Monitoring plans should describe:

- What will be monitored and at what frequency, during and post-construction. Post-construction monitoring should evaluate the success of mitigation and identify what further reclamation measures may be required.
- Identify the person(s) who will conduct the monitoring and qualifications; or, if unknown, the qualifications that the monitor will require.
- Any follow-up reporting that is planned or required by the ministry.
- The monitor's authority to halt construction or to make changes to avoid or reduce impacts. This authority must be provided in writing.

Environmental monitors must meet the required qualifications as defined by SPIGEC Guideline No. 6 (January 2002). Environmental monitors must be third-party contractors.

## 2.8 Heritage Resource Conservation

The Heritage Conservation Branch, Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, should be contacted in the early stages of project planning to ensure that potential heritage resource conflicts are identified and avoided. For more information, please visit the Heritage Conservation Branch website ([www.saskatchewan.ca/heritage](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/heritage)) or direct inquiries to:

Heritage Conservation Branch  
Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport  
3211 Albert Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 5W6  
Phone: (306) 787-2817

## 2.9 Public Engagement

It is strongly encouraged that proponents discuss their plans with the public in the project area in the early stages of project planning. The level and format of engagement will depend on the project and its location, but at a minimum it should involve affected landowners/occupants, nearby residents and local municipal government(s). First Nations and Métis communities should also be engaged as early as possible to identify potential impacts and develop appropriate mitigations when the project may have an impact on the ability of communities to hunt, fish or trap for food or carry out traditional uses in the project area. Projects with potential for more significant public interest or concern require more extensive consultation. A public meeting or open house can inform local residents about the project and identify and discuss their concerns. Results of these engagements, including responses to issues identified during the discussions, must be documented in the OGP.

## 2.10 Additional Information Requirements for Waste Processing Facilities and SAGD Facilities

Due to their complexity and potential for significant environmental impacts, there are additional information requirements for OGP submissions for waste processing facilities and SAGD facilities. This information will aid in the evaluation of the project and in determining whether or not the project is likely to meet the criteria of a development, as defined in Section 2(d) of the Act. The information outlined below will likely be required by the Ministry of Energy and Resources when issuing approvals for these facilities. Providing this information in the OGP submission to EASB may assist in expediting the process to obtain subsequent approvals through the Ministry of Energy and Resources. The below list is intended to provide guidance on information requirements specific to waste processing facilities, and may not be inclusive of all requirements. Proponents submitting OGP's for SAGD facilities should include information from the below Regional and Site Specific Hydrology and Hydrogeology, Site Specific Soil Characterization, Monitoring Programs, and Stakeholder Engagement sections.

### Waste Management:

- A description of the solid, sludge and liquid wastes that will be accepted for processing or treatment, and anticipated annual volumes
- A description of the waste acceptance process including but not limited to staging, testing, and tracking of waste entering the site
- A description of the treatment and process technologies to be used for the disposal of waste, including solid, sludge and liquid materials

### Regional and Site-Specific Hydrology and Hydrogeology:

- A summary of regional hydrogeology and geology for the area in which the site is located<sup>1</sup>
- An estimate of the annual volume of freshwater to be used in the operation of the facility and the freshwater source<sup>2</sup>
- Location of all surface and inferred areas of groundwater discharge, within a 3km radius of site
- A summary of local surface water and groundwater users, within a 3km radius of the site
- Site specific hydrogeology information, including:<sup>3</sup>
  - a) A description of the surface geology, including type and thickness of strata;
  - b) The depth of the shallowest water bearing strata and the hydraulic conductivity of the zone;
  - c) The rates and approximate velocities of the groundwater flow in both horizontal and vertical directions;
  - d) A description of groundwater quality, including:
    - i. pH;
    - ii. electrical conductivity (EC);
    - iii. major ions; and
    - iv. total metals and total petroleum hydrocarbons (C7-C60 scan) using a Gas Chromatography Flame Ionization Detector (GC/FID or equivalent methods).
  - e) The depth, location and type of any contaminant encountered and information on the probable source;
  - f) Rationale for the location, depth and screened interval for each monitoring well; and
  - g) Detailed descriptions of groundwater monitoring well completion information, including construction materials and methods employed to develop the well, ground level elevation, depth to water, depth of well and screened intervals for each well.

#### Site Specific Soil Characterization:

- The physical characteristics of the soil, including:
  - a) Thickness;
  - b) Texture;
  - c) Internal drainage characteristics;
  - d) Evidence of fracturing; and
  - e) Estimated moisture content.

---

<sup>1</sup> It is acceptable to derive this information from existing information in the public domain.

<sup>2</sup> If applicable, include a copy of the groundwater diversion or water withdrawal permit.

<sup>3</sup> Site specific hydrogeological information should be obtained through the drilling and installation of monitoring wells.

- The background chemical characteristics of the soil, including:
  - a) pH;
  - b) electrical conductivity (EC);
  - c) Major extractable ions;
  - d) Cation exchange capacity;
  - e) Sodium absorption ration;
  - f) Total trace metals; and
  - g) Total petroleum hydrocarbons (C7-C60 scan) using Gas Chromatography Flame Ionization Detector (GC/FID or equivalent methods).

#### Design Plan:

- Considering the results of the technical investigation, include final sealed engineered drawings that take into account construction quality control assurance procedures and incorporate environmental protection through:
  - a) Seepage barrier system;
  - b) Surface water management system;
  - c) Groundwater monitoring system;
  - d) Leachate collection and management system; and
  - e) Final cover system when permanent storage is necessary.

#### Site Operations

- Procedures for handling, storing, and managing temporarily stored waste
- Procedures for completing environmental inspections, follow-up and record keeping
- Waste and effluent testing procedures
- Pipeline and containment maintenance and leak detection programs
- Hazardous substance storage tanks maintenance and leak detection programs
- Contingency plans for upset conditions during treatment or operations
- Odour control procedures
- Complaint handling procedures

#### Monitoring Programs:

- How the quality of surface soil, subsurface soil, surface water, groundwater, and ambient air quality will be monitored
- How the monitoring program will assess actual project impacts and the outcomes of applied mitigation measures for all phases of the project

#### Stakeholder Engagement:

Proponents should actively solicit public input within the project area and from other individuals or groups that may have an interest in the project. The proponent is expected to hold public meetings and/or open houses in local communities to describe the details of the project and receive feedback on potential issues, interest or concerns related to the project. When conducting public meetings or events, the proponent should advise the public the project is undergoing an environmental assessment review.

Documentation of public engagement undertaken is to be included as well as any documentation (e.g., news articles, meeting minutes, etc.) illustrating any community acceptance, public interest or concern about the project. Describe discussion activities, including people and groups involved, and dates and means of engagement (e.g. via mail, phone, meetings). Provide a summary of all comments and concerns, and any responses received. Identify ongoing or proposed discussions. If available, provide an overview of information on First Nations and Métis communities' traditional or heritage uses in the area. Information provided in this section of the proposal will assist the ministry in evaluating whether there is local, regional or widespread public concern about the proposed project. Future engagement planned to deal with issues or concerns raised by the public should also be identified.

The Ministry of Energy and Resources has additional engagement and notification requirements in the permitting process for waste processing facilities, as outlined in the Waste Processing Facility Application Guidelines. The guidelines can be accessed online at <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/76137> or by searching “Waste Processing Facility” at [www.saskatchewan.ca](http://www.saskatchewan.ca). When engaging with the public, it may be practical to provide information fulfilling both requirements, where the information is readily available.

### 3.0 Legal Issues

Proponents are advised of the following points, which may apply to fulfilling requirements under the Act:

- A Ministerial Determination as to whether a project is a development, or not, under section 2(d) of *The Environmental Assessment Act* may only be issued by the EA Commissioner.
- Proponents must comply with all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements in addition to those under the Act before starting construction or operation. Clearance under the Act is **not** an approval to construct, but rather is a clearance to seek other necessary approvals and permits. Proponents must ensure that all applicable approvals and permits are identified and obtained before starting construction.

### 4.0 Procedures for Submitting the OGP

Contact the appropriate branch for instruction or assistance on submitting OGPs. Electronic submission of an OGP is preferred.

**Lands Unit:** Proponents should contact the Ecological Management Specialist assigned to the district where the proposed project is located. District boundaries and contact information can be found in HABISask ([HABISask - Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment](#)) under Data Sources > Map Layers > Operation Layers > Biodiversity > Ecological Management Specialist Districts. Email addresses follow the format of district#landsapp@gov.sk.ca. Replace the ‘#’ with the appropriate district.

**Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch:** An OGP that requires EASB screening and subsequent Ministerial Determination must be submitted by the proponent (or authorized representative) to [environmental.assessment@gov.sk.ca](mailto:environmental.assessment@gov.sk.ca).

Inquiries regarding an OGP that requires EASB review should be directed to:

Manager, Applications  
Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch  
Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment  
3211 Albert Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 5W6  
Phone: (306) 787-6132  
Email: [environmental.assessment@gov.sk.ca](mailto:environmental.assessment@gov.sk.ca)

## 5.0 Reference Material

For additional information on Saskatchewan's environmental assessment process see:

- [The Environmental Assessment Act](#);
- Environmental Assessment Branch website:  
[www.saskatchewan.ca/environmentalassessment](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/environmentalassessment)

For information on rare and endangered species contact:

- The Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre at (306) 787-7196 or at their website:  
[www.biodiversity.sk.ca](http://www.biodiversity.sk.ca); or
- Ecological Management Specialists with the Lands Unit.

For information on Crown lands in Saskatchewan, please see:

- ISC (<https://www.isc.ca/Pages/default.aspx>)
- The Ministry of Agriculture's Crown Land website:  
<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/crownlands> or  
<https://gisappl.saskatchewan.ca/Html5Ext/index.html?viewer=ACLMVE>

## APPENDIX B

### ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION CHECKLISTS FOR OIL AND GAS, SEISMIC AND LINEAR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ON PRIVATE LAND IN SASKATCHEWAN

These checklists outline the Ministry of Environment's environmental evaluation procedures and requirements for oil and gas, seismic and linear development projects on privately owned land.

ALL PROJECTS ON CROWN LAND ARE SUBJECT TO MORE DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW. A project proposal, as outlined in the Environmental Review Guidelines for Oil and Gas Activities Appendix A - Oil and Gas Project Proposal (OGP) which can be found at <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/environmentalassessment>, must be completed and submitted to the district Ecological Management Specialist with the Lands Unit of the Ministry of Environment.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION CHECKLIST  
FOR OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ON  
PRIVATE LAND IN SASKATCHEWAN**

The Checklist provides a self-screening mechanism for industry to determine if their development projects on privately owned land require detailed review by the Ministry of Environment. Only those projects which trigger a non-routine response for one or more of the environmental issues identified on this list require clearance before work commences.

These procedures and checklist outline the Ministry of Environment's (ENV) environmental evaluation requirements for Petroleum and Natural gas projects on privately owned land. This checklist applies to drilling and all other facilities, such as batteries and compressor stations, and sustaining pads associated Steam Assisted Gravity Drainage (SAGD) projects which occupy PRIVATE land only. Well applications must be submitted through the INTEGRATED RESOURCE INFORMATION SYSTEM (IRIS).

Linear projects on private land will be reviewed by submitting an ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION CHECKLIST FOR PNG LINEAR PROJECTS ON PRIVATE LAND. Seismic projects on private land will be reviewed by submitting an ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION CHECKLIST FOR SEISMIC OPERATIONS ON PRIVATE LAND. Refer to the Environmental Review Guidelines for Oil and Gas Activities Appendix B - Oil and Gas Project Proposal (OGP) when preparing your information. These proposed projects on Crown Land must be submitted as an OGP electronically to the appropriate Ecological Management Specialist office.

**ALL PROJECTS ON CROWN LAND ARE SUBJECT TO MORE DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.** A project proposal, as outlined in the Environmental Review guidelines for Oil and Gas Activities Appendix B – Oil and Gas Project Proposal (OGP) which can be found at: [http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/66/89138-ENV\\_Review\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_Oil\\_and\\_Gas\\_Activities.pdf](http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/66/89138-ENV_Review_Guidelines_for_Oil_and_Gas_Activities.pdf), must be completed.

### **PROCESS**

It is recommended you contact Ministry of Environment's Ecological Management Specialists prior to submitting the checklist if you have any questions. They will be able to identify local concerns and provide direction regarding the level of detail and other information requirements.

All projects are required to be screened using the HABISask mapping application:

Use HABISask → HABITools Tab → Rare Species Assessment Buffer to create a HABISask Rare and Endangered Species Report for the project site. Apply a 1 km buffer to the proposed project footprint to account for any rare and sensitive species occupying adjacent lands that may fall within the Activity Restriction Guidelines. This report is to be submitted with the checklist. If you experience any difficulties, please use the 'contact us' feature on HABISask. See the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre's HABISask webpage for more information on HABISask including a data sharing agreement which is required to sign in. Information on species of concern can also be obtained from ENV's Ecological Management Specialists.

If ALL responses are considered **Routine**, the environmental evaluation checklist with attached surveys, maps, photomosaic images, photographs, HABISask information and any other relevant information will be submitted through the Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS) as part of your well license application. Work may start once you have the well licence has been issued.

If your response is determined to be **Non-Routine** to one or more of the questions on the checklist, follow these procedures:

- Forward the environmental evaluation checklist with surveys, maps, photomosaic images, photographs, HABISask information and any other relevant information through the Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS) as part of your well license application.
- Provide a brief description of the project and information pertaining to the item(s) considered non-routine.
- Describe how you will mitigate any problems/issues associated with those item(s). Information is NOT required in relation to items that were indicated routine.
- Refer to the Environmental Review Guidelines for Oil and Gas Activities Appendix A - Oil and Gas Project Proposal (OGP) when preparing your information. [http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/66/89138-ENV\\_Review\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_Oil\\_and\\_Gas\\_Activities.pdf](http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/66/89138-ENV_Review_Guidelines_for_Oil_and_Gas_Activities.pdf)
- ***Photographs of the site are required to assist in the review of the project***
- **WAIT** for a licence to be issued through IRIS.

### **REGULATORY NOTES**

- Conduct Surveys in Suitable Habitat: Surveys must be conducted in areas containing suitable habitat for the species or guild. Suitable habitat is defined as all habitat types described in the "Ecology and Life History" section of NatureServe Explorer (i.e., use "Species Quick Search" for relevant species).
- Burning Woody Debris – From April 1 to October 31, a Burn Notification Number is required for open fires in a provincial forest, in park land, or any quarter section wholly or partly within 4.5 km of a provincial forest. Information about the new regulations, including notification exemptions for small fires, is outlined in the Open Burning Synopsis. To get a Burn Notification Number, call your local Wildfire Management Forest Protection Area Office between April 1 and October 31 during business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Waste Management – All waste must be handled according to the appropriate legislation.

- Heritage Resources – Proponents are responsible for ensuring projects are cleared by the Heritage Conservation Branch of Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, prior to beginning construction. Developers should check the Developers' Online Screening Tool – Heritage Resource Review and HRIA information, located at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/> under programs and services on the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport website. Heritage Branch can also be contacted by email at [arms@gov.sk.ca](mailto:arms@gov.sk.ca) for additional information regarding project review.
- Activity on Native Prairie – If the project encroaches on native grassland on private land, whether or not any of the items on the checklist are triggered, the Ministry of Environment recommends the following measures to help reduce the impact of the project on this valuable resource:
  - Avoid topsoil stripping wherever possibly by locating the lease in the most level location available.
  - Where stripping is essential, strip only what is required for safety, not the entire lease.
  - Re-seed disturbed native prairie using a seed mix of native species common in the project area.
  - Plan your project to be conducted outside the sensitive breeding and rearing periods for species of concern and outside the active growing season

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT CHECKLIST FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ON PRIVATE LAND**

**NOTE:** All development projects on Crown land are subject to environmental screening by Ecological Management Specialists.

Company Name and Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Type (well, battery, compressor, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Land Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate construction date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

1. Did you complete a pre-disturbance field assessment following the Ministry of Environment’s species detection survey protocols? Name of Assessor and Date of Assessment: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO																																																	
<b>Information Note:</b> Conduct Surveys in Suitable Habitat: Surveys must be conducted in areas containing suitable habitat for the species or guild. Suitable habitat is defined as all habitat types described in the “Ecology and Life History” section of NatureServe Explorer .																																																		
1.1 Did your pre-disturbance field assessment identify any species of concern within the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO																																																	
1.2 Will this project proceed in accordance with the current “Saskatchewan Activity Restriction Guidelines for Sensitive Species”?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO																																																	
<b>Use the following table to determine the final response to the previous questions:</b>																																																		
<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Question</th> <th>Response</th> <th>Question</th> <th>Response</th> <th>Question</th> <th>Response</th> <th>Final Response</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>1</b></td> <td><b>No</b></td> <td><b>1.2</b></td> <td><b>No</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td><b>Non-Routine</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>No</td> <td>1.2</td> <td>Yes</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Routine</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>1</b></td> <td><b>Yes</b></td> <td><b>1.1</b></td> <td><b>Yes</b></td> <td><b>1.2</b></td> <td><b>No</b></td> <td><b>Non-Routine</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>1.1</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>1.2</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Routine</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>1.1</td> <td>No</td> <td>1.2</td> <td>No</td> <td>Routine</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>1.1</td> <td>No</td> <td>1.2</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Routine</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Question	Response	Question	Response	Question	Response	Final Response	<b>1</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>No</b>			<b>Non-Routine</b>	1	No	1.2	Yes			Routine	<b>1</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Non-Routine</b>	1	Yes	1.1	Yes	1.2	Yes	Routine	1	Yes	1.1	No	1.2	No	Routine	1	Yes	1.1	No	1.2	Yes	Routine
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<b>A final response of Non-Routine indicates further review by the Ministry of Environment is required.</b>																																																		
2. Using the <b>Stewart and Kantrud Wetland Classification System</b> , will your project cause: a) a surface disturbance within 45 m of a Class I, Class II, or Class III water body or wetland <b>And/or</b> b) surface disturbance on a slope >5% leading directly to a water body or wetland even if that disturbance will occur at a distance greater than the distance listed above?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO																																																	
2.1 Has the entire wetland been cultivated at any time within the past two years?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO																																																	
2.2 Can this development proceed with no direct physical impact to, or alteration of the water body, wetland and its riparian area?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO																																																	
2.3 Will steps such as: construction of impermeable berm(s), the use of sorbent material and/or silt fences, be taken to ensure no dirt, debris, machinery, lubricants, fuels, spills or produced material can enter the water body, wetland and its riparian area?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO																																																	
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<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Question</th> <th>Response</th> <th>Question</th> <th>Response</th> <th>Question</th> <th>Response</th> <th>Question</th> <th>Response</th> <th>Final Response</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>2</b></td> <td><b>No</b></td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>Routine</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>2</b></td> <td><b>Yes</b></td> <td><b>2.1</b></td> <td><b>No</b></td> <td><b>2.2</b></td> <td><b>No</b></td> <td><b>2.3</b></td> <td><b>No</b></td> <td><b>Non-Routine</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>2.1</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>2.2</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>2.3</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Routine</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Question	Response	Question	Response	Question	Response	Question	Response	Final Response	<b>2</b>	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Routine	<b>2</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Non-Routine</b>	2	Yes	2.1	Yes	2.2	Yes	2.3	Yes	Routine													
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<b>A final response of Non-Routine indicates further review by the Ministry of Environment is required.</b>																																																		
3. Excluding Class I, Class II, and Class III water bodies or wetlands:																																																		
3.1 Will this project cause either a surface disturbance within 45 m of any watercourse, water body or wetland or 90 m of any fish bearing or potentially fish bearing watercourse, water body or wetland?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO																																																	
3.2 Will this project cause a surface disturbance on a slope <5% leading directly to a watercourse, water body or wetland even if that disturbance will occur at a distance greater than the distances listed above?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO																																																	

Use the following table to determine the final response to the previous questions:

Question	Response		Question	Response	Final Response
3.1	Yes	And/Or	3.2	Yes	Non-Routine
3.1	No	And	3.2	Yes	Routine

A final response of Non-Routine indicates further review by the Ministry of Environment is required.

4. Will this project require crossing of any watercourse, water body or wetland?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
4.1. Is the watercourse, water body or wetland currently under cultivation?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
4.2. Can the natural flow of water be maintained?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

Use the following table to determine the final response to the previous questions:

Question	Response	Question	Response		Question	Response	Final Response
4	No						Routine
4	Yes	4.1	No	And/Or	4.2	No	Non-Routine
4	Yes	4.1	Yes	And	4.2	Yes	Routine

A final response of Non-Routine indicates further review by the Ministry of Environment is required.

5. Does this project use surface or ground water for steam injection?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
5.1. Is this a sustaining well pad project?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
5.2. Will this project require an increase in water use allocation from Water Security Agency?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

Use the following table to determine the final response to the previous questions:

Question	Response	Question	Response	Question	Response	Final Response
5	No					Routine
5	Yes	5.1	Yes	5.2	No	Routine
5	Yes	5.1	Yes	5.2	Yes	Non-Routine

A final response of Non-Routine requires further review by the Ministry of Environment and an Oil and Gas Proposal must be submitted through Environmental Assessment & Sustainability Branch.

6. Will this project affect provincial Crown agricultural or Crown Resource land in any way, or any land with a special designation, including: Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, Conservation Easement, Game Preserve, Provincial Park, Recreation Site, Regional Park, Ecological Reserve, Qu'Appelle Implementation, Rafferty or Alameda Mitigation land, federal critical habitat as defined by <i>The Species at Risk Act</i> , or any other land with a special designation?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
--	--

Use the following to determine the final response to the previous questions:

Question	Response	Final Response
6	No	Routine
6	Yes	Non-Routine

A final response of Non-Routine requires further review by the Ministry of Environment and an Oil and Gas Proposal will be required for this project.

**REMINDER:** If one or more of your responses is considered NON-ROUTINE, you must submit the environmental evaluation checklist with all supporting information through IRIS as part of your well licence application. Ministry of Environment well licence obligations must be received before proceeding with work.

Name of individual completing checklist: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature Required)

**ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION CHECKLIST  
FOR SEISMIC OPERATIONS ON  
PRIVATE LAND IN SASKATCHEWAN**

These procedures and checklist outline the Ministry of Environment's environmental evaluation requirements for seismic operations on privately owned land.

The Checklist provides a self-screening mechanism for industry to determine if its seismic exploration program on privately owned land requires detailed review by the Ministry of Environment Ecological Protection Specialists. Only those programs which trigger one or more of the environmental issues identified on this list require Ministry of Environment clearance before work commences.

**ALL SEISMIC PROGRAMS ON CROWN LAND ARE SUBJECT TO A MORE DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.** A project proposal must be completed and submitted to the appropriate Ecological Protection Specialist office of the Ministry of Environment. The Environmental Review Guidelines for Oil and Gas Activities Appendix A - Oil and Gas Project Proposal (OGP) can be found at: <http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/EnvironmentalReviewGuidelinesForOilAndGasActivities2015>

**ALL SEISMIC PROGRAMS REQUESTING TO DRILL SHOT HOLES IN WATERBODIES AND WATERCOURSES ARE SUBJECT TO A MORE DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.** An Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit pursuant to Section 38 of *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010* (EMPA) will be required. A project proposal must be completed and submitted to the appropriate Ecological Protection Specialist office of the Ministry of Environment.

### **PROCESS**

If ALL responses are **NO**, the checklist with attached surveys, maps, photographs, photomosaic images, a screenshot of the HABISask Rare and Endangered Species Report (RESR) showing no occurrences, Notice of Intent for Seismic Operations (NOI), Land Status List, and any other relevant information, signed by an authorized representative of the program proponent, is to be forwarded to the appropriate Ministry of Environment office. The only response required from the Ministry of Environment will be the signed Acknowledgement of Receipt of Notice of Intent. Work may start upon receipt of the signed NOI and all other required approvals.

If you answer **YES** to one or more of the questions on the checklist, follow these procedures:

- Forward the checklist with surveys, maps, photomosaic images, photographs, HABISask RESR, NOI, Land Status List, and any other relevant information, signed by an authorized representative of the program proponent to the appropriate Ministry of Environment office.
- Provide a brief description of the project and information pertaining to the item(s) marked YES.
- Describe how you will mitigate any potential impacts/issues associated with those item(s). Information is NOT required in relation to items that were indicated NO.
- **WAIT** for a clearance response from the Ecological Protection Specialist before starting work.
- **If the mitigation measures identified in Questions 1, 3, and 4 have been met and all required information is submitted, proponents can begin work and DO NOT need to wait for further clearance from the Ministry of Environment (other than the signed NOI), provided all other potential impacts have been mitigated; no other concerns or issues exist, and; all other approvals are in place.**
- **If the response to Question 2.0 is YES, the program MUST be submitted to the appropriate Ministry of Environment office, along with all required information, and clearance from that office must be received prior to proceeding.**
- **If the response to Question 5.0 is YES, the program MUST be submitted to the appropriate Ministry of Environment office, along with all required information, and clearance from that office must be received prior to proceeding.**

**NOTE: Photographs of the program area are required to assist in the review of the project**

It is recommended you contact Ministry of Environment's Ecological Protection Specialists prior to submitting the checklist if you have any questions. The Ecological Protection Specialist will be able to identify local concerns and provide direction regarding the level of detail and other information requirements.

Ecological Protection Specialists will review submissions to verify the accuracy of submitted checklists and determine whether or not any of the trigger items have been noted as a "yes".

Checklists are to be submitted electronically to the Ecological Protection Specialists offices, provided maps and surveys remain intact:

- [larongeexploration@gov.sk.ca](mailto:larongeexploration@gov.sk.ca)
- [meadowlake.exploration@gov.sk.ca](mailto:meadowlake.exploration@gov.sk.ca)
- [melvilleoil&gas@gov.sk.ca](mailto:melvilleoil&gas@gov.sk.ca)
- [princealbert.exploration@gov.sk.ca](mailto:princealbert.exploration@gov.sk.ca)
- [saskatoonoil&gas@gov.sk.ca](mailto:saskatoonoil&gas@gov.sk.ca)
- [swiftcurrentoil&gas@gov.sk.ca](mailto:swiftcurrentoil&gas@gov.sk.ca)

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT CHECKLIST FOR SEISMIC OPERATIONS ON PRIVATE LAND**

**NOTE:** All seismic operations on CROWN land are subject to environmental screening by Ecological Protection Specialists.

Company Name and Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Land Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ECON Program No: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate operations date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

1.0) Did your desktop assessment identify any species of concern in the program area that could potentially be impacted by your project?

YES

NO

Use HABISask→HABITools Tab→Rare Species Assessment Buffer to create a HABISask Rare and Endangered Species Report for the project site. Apply a 1 km buffer to the proposed project footprint to account for any rare and sensitive species occupying adjacent lands so that Activity Restriction Guidelines for Sensitive Species may be applied. If you experience any difficulties, please use the 'contact us' feature on HABISask. See the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre's HABISask webpage for more information on HABISask including a data sharing agreement which is required to sign in.

Information on species of concern can also be obtained from ENV's Ecological Protection Specialists.

1.1) Did your pre-disturbance field assessment identify any species of concern within the program area?

YES

NO

Name of Assessor and Date of Assessment: \_\_\_\_\_

1.2) Is any part of this program located on native grassland?

YES

NO

1.3) Is any part of this program located on native woodland?

YES

NO

**NOTE:** If ALL responses to Questions 1.0, 1.1, 1.2, & 1.3 are NO proceed to Question 2.0, if ANY responses are YES continue with Question 1.4.

1.4) Will this program proceed in accordance with the current "Saskatchewan Activity Restriction Guidelines for Sensitive Species"?

YES

NO

1.5) Will the timing of this program be outside the breeding/nesting period for migratory birds? April 15<sup>th</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>

YES

NO

1.6) Will this program occur entirely during frozen ground conditions?

YES

NO

**NOTE:** If there is a YES response to ANY of Questions 1.0, through 1.3 and if Questions 1.4, through 1.6 are ALL YES responses and all required information is submitted, proponents can begin work and DO NOT need to wait for further clearance from the Ministry of Environment (other than the signed NOI) provided all other potential impacts have been mitigated; no other concerns or issues exist, and all other approvals are in place.

2.0) Will this program cause a surface disturbance (including shot holes) within 90 m of any fish bearing or potentially fish bearing watercourse, water body or wetland?

YES

NO

3.0) Using the Stewart and Kantrud Wetland Classification System, will your program cause a surface disturbance (including shot holes) within 45 m of a non-fish bearing Class I, Class II, or Class III water body or wetland or a surface disturbance on a slope leading directly to a water body or wetland even if that disturbance will occur at a distance greater than the distance listed above?

YES

NO

**NOTE:** If the response to Question 3.0 is NO proceed to Question 4.0, if the response is YES, please respond to Questions 3.1 to 3.2.

3.1) Has the entire wetland been cultivated at any time within the past two years?

YES

NO

3.2) Can this program proceed with no direct physical impact to, or alteration of the water body, wetland and its riparian area?

YES

NO

**NOTE:** If there is a YES response to Question 3.0 BUT if either Questions 3.1 or 3.2 are YES responses and all required information is submitted, proponents can begin work and DO NOT need to wait for further clearance from the Ministry of Environment (other than the signed NOI) provided all other potential impacts have been mitigated; no other concerns or issues exist, and all other approvals are in place.

4.0) Excluding Class I, Class II, and Class III water bodies or wetlands, will this program cause a surface disturbance (including shot holes) within 45 m of any non-fish bearing watercourse, water body or wetland?

YES

NO

4.1) Will this project cause a surface disturbance on a slope leading directly to a watercourse, water body or wetland even if that disturbance will occur at a distance greater than the distances listed above?

YES

NO

4.2) Will this program require crossing of any watercourse, water body or wetland.

YES

NO

5.0 ) Will this program affect provincial Crown Agricultural or Crown Resource land in any way, or any land with a special designation, including: Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, Conservation Easement, Game Preserve, Provincial Park, Recreation Site, Regional Park, Ecological Reserve, Qu'Appelle Implementation, Rafferty or Alameda Mitigation land, or any other land with a special designation?

YES

NO

**REMINDER:** All programs with a YES response **MUST** be submitted to the appropriate Ministry of Environment office, along with all required information, and clearance from that office must be received prior to proceeding.

Name of individual completing checklist: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature Required)

**REGULATORY NOTES**

- Waste Management – All refuse is to be removed to a designated landfill site (with the exception of hazardous waste, which must be handled according to the appropriate Regulations), not buried or burned on site.
- Burning Woody debris - From April 1 to October 31, a Burn Notification Number is required for open fires in a provincial forest, in park land, or any quarter section wholly or partly within 4.5 km of a provincial forest. Information about the new regulations, including notification exemptions for small fires, is outlined in the Open Burning Synopsis. To get a Burn Notification Number, call your local Wildfire Management Forest Protection Area Office between April 1 and October 31 during business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Heritage Resources – Proponents are responsible for ensuring projects are cleared by the Heritage Conservation Branch of Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, prior to beginning construction. Developers should check the Developers' Online Screening Tool – Heritage Resource Review and HRIA information, located at <http://www.saskatchewan.ca> under programs and services on the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport website. Heritage Branch can also be contacted by email at [arms@gov.sk.ca](mailto:arms@gov.sk.ca) for additional information regarding project review.
- A permit to draw water may be required from the Water Security Agency (WSA).
- Impacts to wildlife habitat should be minimized. This will include avoiding nesting sites (stick nest, tree cavities, etc.) dens, burrows, food sources, etc. Standing dead trees should be evaluated for their potential habitat value before removing the tree.
- No material/debris is to be deposited in any wetland, watercourse or waterbody or on the ice of any wetland, watercourse or waterbody. All material/debris accidentally deposited is to be removed immediately.
- All equipment used in proximity to water shall be clean and free from oil or fuel leaks and other sources of contamination and all equipment must be washed clear of any non-indigenous plants or seeds.
- No refueling or servicing of equipment is to take place within **100 meters** of a watercourse or water body.
- All flowing shot holes must be plugged in compliance with Section 38(1) of *The Seismic Exploration Regulations, 1999*.
- Proponents are reminded that any discharge of any substance that may cause an adverse effect or is covered by *The Environmental Management and Protection (Saskatchewan Environmental Code Adoption) Regulations, 2010*, shall be reported to the Ministry of Environment at 1-800-667-7525. Should you require more information on discharges and spills, please check Saskspills.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION CHECKLIST  
FOR PNG LINEAR PROJECTS ON  
PRIVATE LAND IN SASKATCHEWAN**

These procedures and checklist outline the Ministry of Environment's (ENV) environmental evaluation requirements for power lines installed by the company, pipelines, flowlines, integrity digs and other linear projects related to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Industry that occur on privately owned lands. Please note access roads associated with oil and gas facilities should be submitted with the proposed project by means of ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION CHECKLIST FOR OIL AND GAS PROJECTS ON PRIVATE LAND IN SASKATCHEWAN.

The Checklist provides a self-screening mechanism for industry to determine if their development projects on privately owned land require detailed review by the Ministry of Environment. Only those projects which trigger one or more of the environmental issues identified on this list require clearance before work commences.

**ALL PROJECTS ON CROWN LAND ARE SUBJECT TO MORE DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.** A project proposal, as outlined in the Environmental Review Guidelines for Oil and Gas Activities Appendix B - Oil and Gas Project Proposal (OGP) which can be found at: <http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/EnvironmentalReviewGuidelinesForOilAndGasActivities2015> , must be completed and be submitted as an OGP electronically to the appropriate Ecological Protection Specialist office.

**PROCESS**

If ALL responses are **NO**, the checklist with attached surveys, maps, photomosaic images, photographs, HABISask information and any other relevant information and signed by an authorized representative of the project proponent, is to be forwarded to the appropriate office, but you **do not** need to wait for a response from the Ministry of Environment. Work may start once you have all other required approvals.

If you answer **YES** to one or more of the questions on the checklist, follow these procedures:

- Forward the checklist with surveys, maps, photomosaic images, photographs, HABISask information and any other relevant information and signed by an authorized representative of the project proponent to the appropriate Ministry of Environment office.
- Provide a brief description of the project and information pertaining to the item(s) marked YES.
- Describe how you will mitigate any problems/issues associated with those item(s). Information is NOT required in relation to items that were indicated NO. Refer to the Environmental Review Guidelines for Oil and Gas Activities Appendix A – Oil and Gas Proposal (OGP) when preparing your information.  
<http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/EnvironmentalReviewGuidelinesForOilAndGasActivities2015>
- **WAIT** for a clearance response from the Ecological Protection Specialist before starting work.
- **If Questions 3 and 3.1 are answered “YES” and 4.1 through 4.3 have been answered “YES” (or Question 4 has been answered “NO”) and all required information is submitted, proponents can begin work and DO NOT need to wait for further clearance from the Ministry of Environment, provided all other potential impacts have been mitigated; no other concerns or issues exist, and; all other approvals are in place.**

**NOTE: Photographs of the site are required to assist in the review of the project**

It is recommended you contact Ministry of Environment's Ecological Protection Specialists prior to submitting the checklist if you have any questions. They will be able to identify local concerns and provide direction regarding the level of detail and other information requirements.

Ecological Protection Specialists will review submissions to verify the accuracy of submitted checklists and determine whether or not any of the trigger items should have been noted as a “yes.”

Checklists are to be submitted electronically to the Ecological Protection Specialists offices, provided maps and surveys remain intact.

**\*Pipelines/flowlines exceeding 1600 meters will require an Oil and Gas Proposal. Do not break the project into segments and submit on separate linear checklists. Each well tie-in to a flowline will be submitted on a separate linear checklist.**

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT CHECKLIST FOR PNG LINEAR PROJECTS ON PRIVATE LAND**

**NOTE:** This checklist is only to be used for linear projects not exceeding 1600 meters. All development projects on Crown land are subject to environmental screening by Ecological Protection Specialists.

Company Name and Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Type: (Pipeline, Flowline, Power line, Integrity digs etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Associated Facility and Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Pipe Size & Specifications: \_\_\_\_\_

Transporting: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Quarter(s) to be impacted:


Approximate construction date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

1) Did your desktop assessment identify any species of concern in the area that could potentially be impacted by your project?

YES

NO

Use HABISask→HABITools Tab→Rare Species Assessment Buffer to create a HABISask Rare and Endangered Species Report for the project site. Apply a 1 km buffer to the proposed project footprint to account for any rare and sensitive species occupying adjacent lands that may fall within the Activity Restriction Guidelines. If you experience any difficulties, please use the 'contact us' feature on HABISask. See the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre's HABISask webpage for more information on HABISask including a data sharing agreement which is required to sign in.

Information on species of concern can also be obtained from ENV's Ecological Protection Specialists.

1.1) Did your pre-disturbance field assessment, identify any species of concern within the project area?

YES

NO

Name of Assessor and Date of assessment \_\_\_\_\_

2) Will any part of this project impact native grassland?

YES

NO

2.1) If the area is native vegetation, will you be able to re-seed using native seed mixtures of plants common to the disturbed area?

YES

NO

N/A

2.2) Will any part of this project impact native woodland?

YES

NO

3) Is the entire project located on farmland cultivated annually?

YES

NO

3.1) Will this project proceed in accordance with the current "Saskatchewan Activity Restriction Guidelines for Sensitive Species"?

YES

NO

**NOTE:** If Questions 3 and 3.1 are answered YES, and all required information has been submitted, proponents may begin work, PROVIDED all other potential impacts have been mitigated; no other concerns or issues exist, and; all other approvals are in place, proponents Do Not need to wait for further clearance from the Ministry of Environment.

4) **Using the Stewart and Kantrud Wetland Classification System**, will your project cause a direct surface disturbance to a Class I, Class II, or Class III water body, wetland or it's riparian area OR b) surface disturbance on a slope >3% leading directly to the water body or wetland.

YES

NO

4.1) If crossing the wetland; will the crossing be conducted when the wetland is dry or frozen to the bottom?

YES

NO

N/A

4.2) If crossing the wetland; is the crossing by means of directional drilling?

YES

NO

N/A

4.3) Will erosion control measures and spill prevention actions be taken to ensure no dirt, debris, machinery, lubricants, fuels, spills or produced material can enter the water body, wetland and its riparian area?

YES

NO

**NOTE:** Work will NOT begin prior to clearance being received from the Ministry of Environment in any case where there is a NO response to any Questions 4.1 through 4.3. HOWEVER if all responses are YES and all required information is submitted, proponents can begin work and DO NOT need to wait for further clearance from the Ministry of Environment provided all other potential impacts have been mitigated; no other concerns or issues exist, and all other approvals are in place.

If answers to Questions 4.1 through 4.3 are all YES, when submitting the checklist and other required documentation, proponents must provide a conceptual plan that details the methods to be employed to prevent, minimize, monitor, mitigate remedy or reclaim impacts to the wetland.

5) **Excluding Class I, Class II, and Class III water bodies or wetlands**, will this project cause either a surface disturbance within 45 m of any watercourse, water body or wetland or 90 m of any fish bearing or potentially fish bearing watercourse, water body or wetland?

YES

NO

5.1) Will this project cause a surface disturbance on a slope >3% leading directly to the watercourse, water body or wetland even if that disturbance will occur at a distance greater than the distances listed above?

YES

NO

6) Will this project cross a fish bearing or potentially fish bearing watercourse, waterbody or wetland?

YES

NO

7) Will this project affect provincial Crown agricultural or Crown Resource land in any way, or any land with a special designation, including: Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, Conservation Easement, Game Preserve, Provincial Park, Recreation Site, Regional Park, Ecological Reserve, Qu'Appelle Implementation, Rafferty or Alameda Mitigation land, or any other land with a special designation?

YES

NO

8) Does this project involve release of hydrostatic test water contrary to the Saskatchewan Environment Code Chapter #C.3.1?

YES

NO

**REMINDER:** Unless otherwise indicated as per Questions 3, 3.1 and 4 through 4.3, All projects with a YES response **MUST** be provided to the appropriate Ministry of Environment office, along with all required information, and clearance from that office must be received before proceeding.

Name of individual completing checklist \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature Required)

**REGULATORY NOTES**

- Burning Woody debris - From April 1 to October 31, a Burn Notification Number is required for open fires in a provincial forest, in park land, or any quarter section wholly or partly within 4.5 km of a provincial forest. Information about the new regulations, including notification exemptions for small fires, is outlined in the Open Burning Synopsis. To get a Burn Notification Number, call your local Wildfire Management Forest Protection Area Office between April 1 and October 31 during business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Heritage Resources – Proponents are responsible for ensuring projects are cleared by the Heritage Conservation Branch of Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, prior to beginning construction. Developers should check the Developers’ Online Screening Tool – Heritage Resource Review and HRIA information, located at <http://www.saskatchewan.ca> under programs and services on the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport website. Heritage Branch can also be contacted by email at [arms@gov.sk.ca](mailto:arms@gov.sk.ca) for additional information regarding project review.

## APPENDIX C

### RISK ASSESSMENT FOR RARE SPECIES SURVEYS

#### PLANT SURVEYS

In undertaking a risk assessment for rare plants, conduct a screening to determine the potential for rare plants to occur in the project area. The list of potential plants should include those recorded within the project area and within one kilometre from the project boundaries<sup>1</sup>, element occurrences within the rural municipality(s)<sup>2</sup> of the project area, and expected occurrences within the landscape area(s)<sup>3</sup> of the project area. Expert knowledge may be used to add to the list of rare plants for the risk assessment. When conducting rare plant surveys, proponents should:

- Gather reference information and utilize expert knowledge (familiarity with the rare plants in the area) on the potential habitats and flowering dates for the plants listed from the screening. Reference material may include guidebooks, published papers, websites or other material.
- Conduct a walkthrough of the project area and identify the various vegetation habitats. During the walkthrough, identify any rare plants that may be observed and its location.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to the HABISask Interactive Map maintained by the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre (<http://www.biodiversity.sk.ca/>). Screenings can be completed using HABISask ([HABISask - Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment](#)). Navigate to HABItools > Project Screening and complete the screening for a one kilometer buffer surrounding the proposed project footprint. This project screening report must be included with the private land checklist or OGP submission.

<sup>2</sup> The HABISask Map site includes a layer for rural municipalities (RM) located within the administrative/boundaries directory, and layers for townships, sections, and quarter sections contained within the Cadastre directory. If a project is located along the border of two or more RMs, the search list for rare plants will need to be expanded to include rare plants in those adjoining RMs. The Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre website provides a publication listing the element occurrences of rare plants by RM.

<sup>3</sup> Landscape areas are contained within ecoregions as described in *The Ecoregions of Saskatchewan* (Canadian Plains Research Centre and Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management, 1998). The Wildlife Interactive Map site includes a layer for landscape areas located within the Biota directory. If a project is located along the border of two or more Landscape areas, then the search list for rare plants will need to be expanded to include rare plants in those adjoining landscape areas. The Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre Website provides a publication listing the expected plant species by ecoregion. The listing for each ecoregion is separated by landscape area.

- Provide a habitat suitability score for each listed plant that may occur in an identified habitat. Provide an overall habitat suitability score for the plants listed under each habitat to determine whether that habitat has an overall high potential to support rare plants.
- Provide a table showing the assessment. If there are habitats with an overall high potential to support rare plants, plant surveys must be conducted in accordance with the direction provided by the ministry. The current methodology endorsed by the ministry for conducting rare plant surveys is the Species Detection Protocol: 20.0 Vascular Plant, June 2021 (Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, Fish and Wildlife Branch). The protocol can be found by searching 'Vascular Plant SDSP' at [www.saskatchewan.ca](http://www.saskatchewan.ca). Please note that the ministry may require notification prior to survey work and some surveys require a research permit.
- Conduct, at a minimum, a spring and summer survey to capture all flowering periods and provide reasonable assurances on the presence or absence of rare plants.

Weather conditions and predation may affect the ability to find a rare plant in a given year and surveys may be required over more than one year to account for the variances.

## WILDLIFE SURVEYS

Before undertaking rare wildlife surveys, conduct a screening to determine the potential rare wildlife that may be in the area. The list of potential rare wildlife should include those recorded within the project area and within one kilometre from the project boundaries<sup>8</sup>, element occurrences within the rural municipality(s)<sup>9</sup> of the project area; and expected occurrences within the Landscape Area(s)<sup>10</sup> of the project area. Expert knowledge may be used to add to the list of rare wildlife that may occur in the project area.

If project activities cannot be designed to avoid migratory bird nesting periods, the list should be expanded to include any migratory bird as defined under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (Canada).

The rare wildlife survey should be focused on the list of screened species, but should also be designed to detect rare species that are not included on the list. Surveys will also need to be expanded to detect any migratory bird species if project activities can't be designed to avoid migratory bird nesting periods. Surveys must be conducted in accordance with the direction provided by the ministry.

The current methodologies endorsed by the ministry for conducting wildlife surveys (amphibian, reptiles, birds and mammals) can be found by searching '[Wild Species Research Permitting](#)' at [www.saskatchewan.ca](http://www.saskatchewan.ca). The ministry may require notification prior to survey work and some surveys require a research permit.