

**Irrigation Development Policy
Agricultural Crown Land
June 2026**

A. Purpose

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

B. Authority

1. Agricultural Crown Lessee Applications

Sections 2-23(1) through to 2-26 of *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016* and Part 6 of *The Provincial Lands (Agriculture) Regulations* apply to improvements and require lessees to obtain written authorization prior to constructing or altering improvements on their leased agricultural provincial land.

Irrigation infrastructure would be considered an “improvement” under section 6-1(a) of *The Provincial Lands (Agriculture) Regulations* and section 2-23 of *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016*.

2. Third-Party Applications

If the applicant is **not** an agricultural Crown lessee (e.g., the project is located on privately owned land but crosses agricultural Crown land), sections 2-23(1) through to 2-26 of *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016* apply with respect to improvements.

3. Issuance of Dispositions

- a. For easement dispositions, section 4-4(3) of *The Provincial Lands (Agriculture) Regulations* applies. All information contained within the Crown Land Management Branch Easement Policy applies to irrigation pipeline easements, with the following exceptions:
 - i. Term lengths for irrigation pipeline easements are 99 years;
 - ii. Legal surveys are not required; and
 - iii. The pipeline easement right-of-way width is 15 meters.
- b. For miscellaneous use dispositions, section 3-1(2) of *The Provincial Lands (Agriculture) Regulations* applies. The Crown Land Management Branch Miscellaneous Use Lease Policy also applies.

C. Process

1. Production and Development Branch is the main point of contact for irrigation development in the province. The Irrigation Development Process is found on saskatchewan.ca.
 - a. Production and Development Branch will coordinate with other agencies involved in the review or approvals throughout the process.
 - b. Production and Development Branch will ensure all other approvals are obtained by the project proponent prior to issuing the Irrigation Certificate.
2. If the lessee chooses not to use Production and Development Branch technical services, the lessee will send a completed Irrigation Development Application and Authorization form to the Crown Land Management Branch Land Management Specialist.
 - a. A resource document is available on the Irrigation Development Process [website](#) that provides information for lessees on which additional documents are required for projects.

D. Irrigation Developments

1. **General**
 - a. The Duty to Consult is required to be reviewed consistent with *The First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework* for any developments involving vacant agricultural Crown land; bed, bank and shoreline; or where there may be adverse offsite impacts to First Nation and Métis communities' ability to exercise Treaty and Aboriginal rights and traditional uses.
 - i. Information obtained from consultations with First Nations and Métis communities may result in project changes or ineligibility.
 - ii. Any project with the potential to adversely impact First Nation and Métis communities' ability to exercise Treaty and Aboriginal and traditional uses on vacant agricultural Crown land, including waterbodies, will at a minimum require a pre-consultation assessment.
 - b. Lessee consent is required to cross land for developments involving occupied agricultural Crown land.
 - c. Cultivation or conversion of native prairie is prohibited and will not be approved on agricultural Crown lands.
 - i. Disturbing native prairie for the development of irrigation pipelines and pump sites may be permitted on a case-by-case basis.
 - d. Crown Land Management Branch involvement in the project will no longer be required if during project development, the irrigation project route changes and agricultural Crown land is no longer affected.
 - e. Any adjustments to the disposition acres or production states will be completed after Production and Development Branch issues an Irrigation Certificate and has completed the as constructed survey and inspection.

2. Pivots

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

3. Irrigation Pipelines

- a. Written authorization will be provided once the project proposal and sketch has been reviewed, Duty to Consult is complete (if applicable) and lessee consent is provided (if applicable).
 - i. Production and Development Branch will provide Crown Land Management Branch with the irrigation plan for proposals being developed with the technical assistance of Production and Development Branch (Step 2 of the Irrigation Development Process).
- b. Lessees are encouraged to register easements on the parcel with Information Services Corporation at www.ISC.ca.

4. Pump Sites

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

Visit saskatchewan.ca/crownlands for more information or to contact your local regional office.