



There are approximately 9,000 water impounding structures in Saskatchewan, of which 416 are considered a dam as defined by CDA. These dams are owned by federal, provincial and municipal governments along with park boards, corporations and private individuals.

The Water Security Agency (WSA) is responsible for the management of Saskatchewan's water resources including the development and use of water and the regulation of water storage or diversion works such as dams for water supply, flood protection and power generation. The Province does not have dam safety standards, regulations or legislation. WSA regulates dams for water supply and flood protection under *The Water Security Agency Act*, with hydroelectric dams regulated under *The Water Power Act*. Relevant parts of *The Water Security Agency Act* include Part VII: Water Management, which includes Division 1: Water Rights and Division 2: Approval for Works. Both acts specify the approvals process required to construct and operate dams and the right to use water.

WSA's approval process under *The Water Security Agency Act*, which would apply to the vast majority of dams in the Province, is well defined and detailed on WSA's website, www.wsask.ca. For water dams, an Approval to Construct leading to a Water Rights License and Approval to Operate is required. Applications for water dams must include information such as the water source name and location, the project location, plans and specifications, proof of land ownership, an application fee, a report on operation of the works (if requested) and any other material requested by WSA.

Upon receiving an application, WSA determines the water availability at the diversion point, identifies watershed effects that may require special operating conditions, assesses the dam for safety, hazards or impacts, verifies land ownership, reviews the construction drawings, methods and time frames and identifies any other requirements necessary. The intent of the approval process is to ensure the sustainable and environmentally sound development of the Province's surface water resources. When all requirements have been met, WSA issues an Approval to Construct and Water Rights License, which allows the owner to construct the works necessary for their eventual diversion and use of a specific quantity of water. Upon satisfactory completion of construction, WSA issues an Approval to Operate, which may require an inspection or review of an engineering report.

As part of the audit process to verify compliance to the approvals that have been issued, WSA may inspect a dam at any time. If on inspection, it is found that the works were not constructed in accordance with the approval issued, WSA may amend the approval, order appropriate changes or revoke the approval and require removal of the works. In addition, WSA may cancel, amend or suspend an approval if the project is not compliant with the terms or conditions of the approval or any other provisions of *The Act*.