



# **RURAL WATER PIPELINE HANDBOOK FOR SASKATCHEWAN**

*UNIT TWO ( II ) -  
IDENTIFICATION OF PARTNERS*

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*April 2009*

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## **Section 1      Who Are The Agencies Involved**

### **1.0    General**

For many years, various organizations have been available to assist water pipeline groups, whether it is with regulatory matters, design or administration. The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Water Pipelines, Inc. was formed to bring together these groups.

### **1.1    Who Is...**

The following is a list of those organizations involved with the formation, administration and operation of rural water pipeline groups brought together to provide an effective, united voice across the province. These groups now have a focal point for government agencies to work with rural pipeline groups on policy and other issues.

#### **1.1.1    Who is SARWP?**

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Water Pipelines, Inc. (or SARWP) was formed in 1998. The Association's main objective is to provide an effective, united voice for rural water pipeline groups across the province, in offering advice to government agencies involved in funding/regulating pipelines; and, to provide a focal point for government agencies to work with rural pipeline groups on policy issues.

SARWP also provides practical services to individual pipeline groups such as advice on administrative and operational matters, workshops and training sessions including a very informative annual seminar held in December of each year.

SARWP provides information on changing roles of government agencies, new technology and standard agreements for consulting services, construction contracts, subscriber agreements, etc.

SARWP also collaborates with government and/or non-government organizations as well as with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM).

SARWP also liaises with other provincial associations including the Alberta Federation of Rural Water Co-operatives Ltd.

#### **1.1.2    What is PFRA?**

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (or PFRA) is a branch of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). PFRA works with Prairie people to develop a viable agricultural industry and sustainable rural economy in the Prairies. PFRA has been working with rural Prairie people for more than 70 years, helping them meet the

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challenges presented by a demanding climate and in an ever-evolving agricultural industry.

While programs have adjusted over time to remain relevant, the focus of PFRA has remained constant – to ensure the sustainable use of the Prairie’s irreplaceable soil and water resources. PFRA’s activities complement and strengthen AAFC’s goals of sustainability and building a strong foundation for rural communities.

*Note:* PFRA’s name will change in 2009 as it becomes part of a new, integrated national branch that includes other key agri-environmental organizations and work units within AAFC. The new branch will focus on AAFC’s environment-related commitments and priorities.

### **1.1.3 Who is Ministry of Environment (MOE)?**

The mandate of this department is to protect and manage Saskatchewan's environment and natural resources so as to maintain the high level of environmental quality, to ensure sustainable development, and to provide economic and social benefits for present and future generations.

MOE works with many partners to ensure our resources and environment are properly protected, developed and managed for long-term sustainability.

MOE is the principle regulator of municipal water and sewage works and all privately owned (publicly accessible) water and sewage works that have a flow rate of 18,000 litres or more per day. MOE regulates pipeline systems of fifteen (15) or more connections. MOE also requires operators of such systems to meet particular criteria prior to being certified.

### **1.1.4 Who is Saskatchewan Health/Health Regions?**

Saskatchewan Health’s mandate is: to provide leadership in defining and implementing a vision for health and a framework for health systems; to assess, promote and protect the health of the Saskatchewan population; and to ensure provision of essential and appropriate services to Saskatchewan residents.

There are 12 Regional Health Authorities, often referred to as health regions, in Saskatchewan. Each regional health authority has a governing board that oversees the delivery of most of the health services in Saskatchewan. Included in their areas of responsibility are the administration and enforcement of public health legislation and regulations within their regions.

Through *The Public Health Act, 1994*, Health Regions can issue an emergency boil water order for Saskatchewan Environment and Health Region regulated rural water pipelines. As well the Health Regions administer the Health Hazard Regulations, which contain sections to address small pipelines and the Plumbing and Drainage Regulations, which apply to connections of rural water pipelines to plumbing systems.

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### 1.1.5 Who is SaskWater?

Re-mandated in 2002, SaskWater is the province's Crown water utility service provider delivering potable and non-potable water to municipalities, industry and rural water pipeline associations. However, the company is not a monopoly Crown and does not have province wide infrastructure. Waterworks organizations in Saskatchewan looking to source potable (treated) water may be able to connect to a SaskWater supply line if the company has operations in your planned service area and available capacity. In these situations, SaskWater will sell potable water in bulk (wholesale) to your pipeline association which your group can then re-distribute and bill to your individual members.

If you are forming a rural water pipeline group, you may wish to confirm if SaskWater has operations in your area by either contacting SaskWater Customer Service directly at 1-888-230-1111 or visit their web-site at [www.saskwater.com](http://www.saskwater.com).

The new SaskWater is no longer responsible for watershed management, well testing or source water protection. For information about these services, please visit the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority website at [www.swa.ca](http://www.swa.ca).

### 1.1.6 Who is Saskatchewan Watershed Authority?

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority leads in the management of the Province's water resources to ensure safe drinking water sources and reliable water supplies for economic, environmental and social benefits for Saskatchewan people. To learn more about its programs and projects, visit their website at [www.swa.ca](http://www.swa.ca).