

[Transmission Line Development]

STEWARDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT





WE SHARE YOUR COMMITMENT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

When we build a new transmission line, we want to leave as little impact on the environment as possible. Every project we undertake must carefully balance a number of important issues and concerns:

- technical and geographical challenges
- social and environmental impact
- agricultural and economic realities

Before a project begins, SaskPower gathers a great deal of environmental and land use information from a variety of sources. We want to choose a route that will provide the least overall impact on the environment and to your way of life.

- are there existing transmission lines or other parallel opportunities in the area
- are there large bodies of water or migratory bird habitat impacted
- is there sensitive wildlife habitat or rare plants we need to be aware of
- is environmentally fragile terrain involved
- would the project impact any designated or protected areas such as parks, wildlife lands or conservation easements
- would any heritage sites or culturally sensitive features be impacted

POWERING THE FUTURE MEANS PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT

As a provincial Crown Corporation, SaskPower strives to be a leader in environmental best management practices. We work hard to improve our environmental performance and reduce our impact on the land, water and air.

We are required to comply with all relevant environmental legislation, provincial regulations and corporate commitments.

Our goal is to protect and preserve the environment for future generations.



ANATOMY OF BUILDING A NEW TRANSMISSION LINE

Line routing and station placement



We identify and evaluate all environmental considerations including large bodies of water, parks, other protected lands, and environmentally and archaeologically sensitive areas.

Stakeholder engagement



We gather feedback from local landowners on known wildlife species that may be at risk, sensitive areas, land use and any environmental concerns they may have.

Environmental evaluation



We do a detailed environmental analysis and review of the preferred route, and then determine what environmental protection measures need to be taken to minimize impact and obtain the necessary government clearance to proceed.

Construction



Throughout the construction phase we monitor the effectiveness of our protection measures to ensure we are limiting our impact to the surrounding environment.

Post- construction



Project clean-up and land reclamation is completed before we consider the job complete.

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

Once a preferred route for a new line has been chosen, we do a detailed environmental evaluation and collect data from a variety of sources:

- our own Environmental Screening System
- environmental field studies
- aerial photographs
- local landowners and other stakeholders
- published reports and other documents

This data is then evaluated to determine what impact the project will have on aspects of the environment like terrain, vegetation, wildlife and aquatic resources. Environmental protection measures and best practices are then customized to minimize overall impact of the project.

This data is typically compiled into a provincial or federal regulatory application to meet the requirements of Saskatchewan's *Environmental Assessment Act* and/or the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and obtain regulatory clearance or permitting to construct.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES

During construction of any new transmission line, SaskPower implements a number of environmental protection measures. These apply equally to both SaskPower employees and to all private contractors involved. These measures cover topics such as:

- environmental monitoring requirements
- equipment condition and cleanliness
- regulatory requirements including all necessary permits and approvals
- land and right-of-way access approvals
- debris and litter removal
- excessive rutting from heavy vehicles
- hazardous wastes
- storage of equipment, fuels and other products
- working near water bodies, wetlands, riparian areas and other sensitive habitats
- vegetation removal
- erosion control
- rare and endangered species protection
- reclamation activities
- avoidance of heritage sites

PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE

There are more than 25,000 archaeological sites recorded in Saskatchewan. They represent the entire human history of this province; from the early appearance of First Nations more than 10,000 years ago, to the pioneer era of the early 20th century. Archaeological sites can include First Nation campsites; large-scale hunting sites such as bison jumps; places with a spiritual significance such as medicine wheels or rock art sites; former fur trade posts; Metis settlements; and pioneer homesteads. These are fragile, non-renewable resources that greatly contribute to the understanding of our past.

To protect archaeological sites, the Province of Saskatchewan enacted *the Heritage Property Act* in 1980. This act requires that an impact assessment be conducted prior to any activity that is likely to alter, damage or destroy an archaeological site.

If the archaeologists at SaskPower determine that there is a significant risk that a SaskPower project could impact an archaeological site, field studies are conducted to determine the exact location of the sites, their size and what they contain. The necessary steps are then taken to avoid the sites altogether if possible or to implement procedures to minimize impact to the sites.



We want to hear from you. Do you have any environmental concerns about the proposed transmission line project in your area?

Are you aware of any environmental sensitivity on your land? Do you want more information?

Email us at
publicconsultation@saskpower.com

