

Ministry of Environment
Forest Service
319-800 Central Avenue
Prince Albert, Canada S6V 6Z2

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April 4, 2025

File: # 25/26-PAFMA- SAKÂW-AHPP01

James Fischer – General Manager
Sakâw Askiy Management Inc.
219-1061 Central Ave.
PRINCE ALBERT SK S6V 4V4

Dear James Fischer:

AQUATIC HABITAT PROTECTION PERMIT # 25/26-PAFMA- SAKÂW-AHPP01

Pursuant to Section 38 (5)(c) of *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010* (EMPA), this permit authorizes Sakaw Askiy Management Inc. and/or its shareholders for the construction, maintenance, and reclamation of crossings, as well as the removal of beaver dams/blockages on water courses identified in the operating plan approved by the Ministry. This approval applies to crossings identified on the ground during road construction work. This permit does not release the proponent from obtaining additional approvals that may be required under any federal or provincial legislation.

At such a time the wetland and watercourse crossings standards are approved then the standards take precedence unless the activity is not wholly covered by the standard.

This permit does not exempt the proponent from meeting any requirements of Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) or required approvals associated with any such requirements when operating in waters that are considered fish habitat as defined in the *Fisheries Act* (Canada) or where the work is performed pursuant to Section 35 of the *Fisheries Act* (Canada).

This permit applies to activities that fall outside of Section 5 of *The Environmental Management and Protection (General) Regulations*.

Information Notes

Information notes have been included in this authorization to provide the authorization holder with further information or direction. Information notes are not part of the legal text of this authorization and are inserted for convenience of reference only.

Information Note

As per EMPA 2010 and/or The EMPA 2010 General Regulations watercourses are defined as:

EMPA 2010

section (2) (jj) "surface water" means water that is above the surface of land and in a river, stream, lake, creek, spring, ravine, coulee, canyon, lagoon, swamp, marsh or other watercourse or water body, whether the water is there permanently or intermittently.

EMPA General Regulations 2010

Section (4)(c) "intermittent watercourse" means a watercourse that normally does not experience year-round flow and includes ephemeral streams that are usually inundated during spring snow melt or following a heavy rain event.

Section (5)(e) "watercourse" includes a gully, valley floor, drainage ditch or any other channel, including any artificial channel, in which water flows either permanently or intermittently.

General Conditions:

- 1) Activities that are not carried out in accordance with this permit are deemed non-compliances. Any non-approved activities that cause a deleterious release or damage to the bed, bank or boundary are not allowed. All non-compliances with this permit shall be reported to the area forester or inspecting officer within 24 hours following their discovery and verification by the permit holder. A notice of non-compliance shall include the location of the non-compliance, and the circumstances related to the non-compliance.
- 2) Work is to be performed under dry or low in-stream flow conditions unless deemed as an emergency re-installation. Under these circumstances, the Area Forester or designate must be notified as soon as possible that the work is occurring.
- 3) Area and severity of disturbance for installation and maintenance shall be minimized.

Information Note

Minimize is defined as: to leave an impact that a reasonable person would consider appropriate for said activity.

- 4) The contractor(s) / operator performing the work must be given a copy of this permit and it must be kept on site to ensure that all authorization conditions are met.
- 5) Fuel, oils, or lubricants can only be stored / staged in accordance with The Saskatchewan Environmental code and/or standards.

- 6) No machinery shall be cleaned or refueled within 100 metres of any water body, wetland or water course. Wastewater containing oils, fuels or grease generated from cleaning equipment must be kept from contaminating soils, plant material and/or water.
- 7) Machinery is to be cleaned and free of external grease and/or oil and any material that may hold or harbour exotic species, their seeds, eggs, or plant material from exotic species.
- 8) All crossing ledgers, reports, records, documents required under this permit or other relevant crossing information must be kept on file by the permittee and/or responsible shareholder and be supplied to the Ministry on request.
- 9) All rock used for rip rap, armament, gabions or retaining walls shall be free of deleterious substances including sand, silt, loam, clay or any other debris or deleterious materials.
- 10) Rock originating from upstream and downstream areas of the bed or bank of the water course shall not be used for any construction purpose.
- 11) All associated spills, construction materials, and debris (e.g., petroleum products, non - natural materials) must be immediately handled as per The Saskatchewan Environmental Code.
- 12) Any direct or indirect release into water of a substance identified in table 1 or 2 of the Discharge and Discovery Reporting Standard must be reported to the Provincial Spill Line at 1-800-667-7525 as per Subsection 38 (5) of the *Fisheries Act* (Canada) and The Saskatchewan Environmental Code. Any direct or indirect release into water of a substance such as silt, sand, loam and/or clay, where its release has or will likely have an adverse effect on water quality or aquatic habitat must be reported to a Ministry of Environment Forest Service Forest Operations staff member.

As per the Discharge and Discovery Reporting Code Chapter Releases reported to the Forest Service must include location of the discharge, date of discharge if known, type and estimated quantity of the substance, if fish bearing or potable waters may be or are affected and details of any action taken.
- 13) All spoil materials and debris remaining from construction, maintenance, reclamation, or removal activities shall immediately be placed above the high-water mark in a location where they will not be subject to erosion into any waterbody. Old culverts and/or construction materials other than dirt shall be removed from the site to an approved landfill site or the permittee's and/or responsible shareholder's storage facility by December 1st of each year.
- 14) In-stream crossing work shall be limited to the placement of new piles or a one-time crossing of equipment for installation. Isolation of the site is required for all instream work on waters with a 1km or less connectivity to fish habitat as defined in the *Fisheries Act* (Canada). Alternative solutions for isolation may be approved by the area Forester. Once work is completed approaches shall be stabilized with non-erodible materials.

- 15) Portable bridges shall free span the full width of the stream, with sills located beyond the water's edge and restrict flow of the stream.

Information Note

Notification, as stated in condition 16, is to include all of the informational requirements as set out in conditions 23 and 34 below.

- 16) The Area Forester and/or designate will be notified in writing a minimum of 4 days prior to commencement and completion of any in-stream work. This applies to new construction and reclamation of crossings except for ephemeral or intermittent water courses and wetlands without a permit stream running through it.
- 17) The Area Forester may amend this permit, as deemed necessary for the protection of habitat, stream banks, bed, and channel.

Crossing Maintenance Conditions:

- 18) The permittee and/or responsible shareholder will semi-annually inspect crossings (spring & fall) and carry out maintenance work, if necessary, at any time for the duration that the water crossing is in place. Inspections should include but not be limited to; maintenance and prevention (blockages, damage, erosion control and underpinning), the assurance of crossings safety, and crossing function.
- 19) Bridge or culvert cleaning including but not limited to; bridge deck cleaning, beaver dam, ice, or other blockage material removal may be undertaken at any time through to the expiration of this permit.
- 20) Maintenance completed as per clause 18 must be done in a manner that limits adverse environmental and social effects on any connected (i.e. upstream or downstream) water course or water body.
- 21) A monthly report summarizing all water crossing maintenance will be submitted to the Area Forester within 30 days after the month in which the maintenance was completed. The report shall include the following information:
- i) name of road (or operating area)
 - ii) UTM location
 - iii) name of water course (if unnamed, state as such)
 - iv) type of maintenance
 - v) crossing permanency (i.e., seasonal, temporary, or permanent)
 - vi) start and completion dates of work
 - vii) name of project supervisor

Crossing Installation Conditions:

- 22) Unless the permittee and/or responsible shareholder can specifically demonstrate (supply sections) that the following information is within an Environmental Impact statement or assessment (EIS), Forest Management Agreement (FMA) or Forest Management Plan (FMP) or operating plan, they must prior to crossing installation identify and document information respecting potential adverse effects to fish and wildlife species, vegetative cover, landforms, soil types and wetlands that are likely to be affected by the crossing installation.
- 23) Unless the permittee and/or responsible shareholder can specifically demonstrate (supply sections) that the following information is within an operating plan, they must prior to crossing installations, provide the following information to the Area Forester:
- i) name of road (or operating area)
 - ii) UTM location
 - iii) name of water course (if unnamed, state as such)
 - iv) type of crossing (include number and size of culverts)
 - v) permanency (i.e., seasonal, temporary (winter only) or permanent)
 - vi) estimated start and completion dates of work
 - vii) name of project supervisor
- 24) Unless the permittee and/or responsible shareholder can specifically demonstrate (supply sections) that the following information is within an EIS, FMA, FMP or operating plan they must, prior to crossing installations, assess and document proposed measures to mitigate or prevent any potential impact of the proposed installation on aquatic and/or riparian habitats, including erosion and/or sediment control plans. If the permittee and/or responsible shareholder wants to use their own standard operating procedures (SOPs) or best management practices (BMPs) to address the requirements, they must supply SOPs/BMPs for approval in the operating plan.
- 25) Fall and winter installations of permanent structures (i.e., longer than 1 winter season) shall utilize non-frozen earthen fill for compaction purposes.
- 26) Culverts will be embedded below the natural channel bed at a depth equivalent to at least 20% of the culvert diameter.
- 27) Both the inlet and outlet shall be immediately protected from erosion and/or scouring with non-erodible materials e.g., rock rip rap, slash, matting, fabric, etc.
- 28) Side slopes and back slopes associated with crossing installations/reinstallations shall be no greater than 2:1 and will be stabilized immediately by re-establishing vegetation and reforesting the disturbed area with species that are representative of pre-harvest site conditions and plant communities, clean rock riprap, ditch blocks, silt fencing, planting, slash spreading, erosion control blankets or a combination thereof to achieve long term erosion control.

29) Pre-installed site conditions for channel alignment, elevation, and size (depth and width) shall be maintained.

30) All culverts shall be installed to maintain and conform to existing stream gradients and flows.

Crossing Reclamation:

31) Old culverts and/or construction materials shall be removed from the site to an approved landfill site or the permittee's and/or responsible shareholder's storage facility by December 1st of each year.

32) Unless otherwise authorized, all crossing reclamation requires the site to be returned to a state consistent with the undisturbed channel, bank, and boundary upstream and downstream from the crossing installation.

33) Restored sites must approximate the channel alignment and be re-established to the elevation, size (depth and width) and substrate of the pre-install site conditions of the watercourse.

34) Unless the permittee and/or responsible shareholder can specifically demonstrate (supply sections) that the following information is within an operating plan, they must prior to crossing reclamation, provide the following information to the Area Forester:

- i) name of road (or operating area)
- ii) UTM location
- iii) name of water course (if unnamed, state as such)
- iv) type of crossing (include number and size of culverts)
- v) estimated start and completion dates of work
- vi) name of project supervisor

35) Unless the permittee and/or responsible shareholder can specifically demonstrate (supply sections) that the following information is within an EIS, FMA, FMP or operating plan they must, prior to crossing reclamation assess and document proposed measures to mitigate or prevent any potential impact of the proposed reclamation on aquatic and/or riparian habitats, including erosion and/or sediment control plans. If the permittee and/or responsible shareholder wants to use their own SOPs or BMPs to address the requirements they must supply the SOPs/BMPs for approval in the operating plan.

36) All disturbed shoreland shall be stabilized immediately by re-vegetating right of ways including road driving surfaces by re-establishing vegetation and reforesting the disturbed area with species that are representative of pre-harvest site conditions and plant communities. When re-vegetating exposed soils to reduce the likelihood of erosion and sedimentation, clean rock riprap, ditch blocks, silt fencing, planting, slash spreading, erosion control blankets or a combination thereof to achieve long term erosion control.

- 37) If crossing stabilization is not successful, the permittee and/or responsible shareholder shall monitor and continue to employ acceptable means of stabilization until banks become stable. (This does not apply if a third party has caused damage that would affect / or has affected stabilization).

Information Note

In addition to "Native Species Recommended for Site Restoration within the Mid-Boreal Upland, Mid-Boreal Lowland and Boreal Transition EcoRegions of Saskatchewan" (Adam L. Kosowan and Jim R. Smith in January 2004), other resources may be used in determining the appropriate species and seed source availability.

- 38) All fill material removed during crossing reclamation shall be immediately placed above the high-water mark in a location where the material will not be subject to erosion into any water body or water course.

Temporary Crossings (winter only)

- 39) Subject to section 41, Snow and/or ice crossings with or without culverts will consist of clean snow and/or ice only. **No earthen fill, debris, or logs, shall be used.**
- 40) Temporary crossings utilizing culverts do not require the culvert to be imbedded.
- 41) If logs are to be used in any temporary winter crossing, they must be limbed and cabled together. Logs must be scaled (if being utilized) or estimated in accordance with provisions of the proponents approved scaling plan (if being left as slash).
- 42) Temporary crossings must be removed prior to **March 31, 2025**. If only ice and/or snow were used in construction, removal shall be done in a manner that will ensure that water flow will not be impeded. Where cabled log bundles were used in the crossing, all logs must be fully removed from the crossing, unbundled and utilized or disposed of as slash.

Information Note

This authorization does not negate or replace any other authorizations required pursuant to any other Provincial or Federal legislation especially that of the *Fisheries Act (Canada)* and/or *The Wildlife Regulations* for the removal or destruction of nuisance wildlife (Beavers).

This permit expires **March 31, 2026**. If you have any questions, please contact Abhijeet Chauhan at Abhijeet.chauhan@gov.sk.ca or by phone at (306) 930 - 9875.

Sincerely,

Signature Redacted for
Privacy

Abhijeet Chauhan
Forester,
Forest Service