

## Chapter 28

# Saskatchewan Water Corporation – Maintaining Infrastructure

### 1.0 MAIN POINTS

By early April 2017, Saskatchewan Water Corporation implemented both outstanding recommendations initially made in our 2006 audit of its processes to maintain its water treatment and transmission infrastructure.

SaskWater gathered detailed information about its water treatment and transmission infrastructure and completed condition assessments for all of its critical pumps and motors. This information will help managers better identify maintenance needs and make informed decisions on infrastructure improvements and replacements.

### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

SaskWater constructs, acquires, manages, and operates waterworks and provides services in accordance with agreements it makes under *The Saskatchewan Water Corporation Act*. At April 2017, it owned 8 water treatment plants, 3 wastewater facilities, 39 pump stations, 140 kilometres of canal, and approximately 935 kilometres of pipeline.

Our *2006 Report – Volume 1*, Chapter 12 contained two recommendations that we made in our audit of SaskWater's processes related to maintenance of water treatment and transmission infrastructure. In our *2009 Report – Volume 1*, Chapter 15 (first follow-up) and *2014 Report – Volume 1*, Chapter 27 (second follow-up), we reported some progress that SaskWater had made towards implementing these recommendations.

This chapter describes the results of our third follow-up of management's actions on the two recommendations.

To conduct this review engagement, we followed the standards for assurance engagements published in the *CPA Canada Handbook – Assurance*. To evaluate SaskWater's progress towards meeting our recommendations, we used the relevant criteria from the original audit. SaskWater's management agreed with the criteria in the original audit.

To carry out this engagement, we discussed with management the actions taken by SaskWater to implement our recommendations, and examined related documents.

### 3.0 STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

This section sets out each recommendation including the date on which the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies agreed to the recommendation, the status of the recommendation at April 7, 2017, and SaskWater's actions up to that date.



### 3.1 Reliable Information on Assets Obtained

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We recommended that Saskatchewan Water Corporation compile reliable information detailing the water treatment and transmission infrastructure it owns and the condition of that infrastructure. (2006 Report – Volume 1; Crown and Central Agencies Committee agreement January 19, 2009)

**Status** – Implemented

SaskWater gathered detailed information about its water treatment and transmission infrastructure in its Asset Management System. By early April 2017, SaskWater completed condition assessments for all of its critical pumps and motors.

Collecting information about infrastructure and assessing the condition of assets helps managers identify maintenance needs and make informed decisions on future infrastructure improvements and replacements.

### 3.2 Maintenance Plan Developed

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We recommended that Saskatchewan Water Corporation develop and use a maintenance plan for its water treatment and transmission infrastructure. (2006 Report – Volume 1; Crown and Central Agencies Committee agreement January 19, 2009)

**Status** – Implemented

By early April 2017, SaskWater developed a comprehensive maintenance plan. The plan includes maintenance objectives, strategies, asset records<sup>1</sup> that SaskWater maintains, and inspection and maintenance requirements for specific types of equipment and assets. In addition, the maintenance plan outlines roles and responsibilities for establishing the frequency of the inspections, assignment of maintenance tasks, scheduling of maintenance, and a reporting section detailing documentation requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> Asset records include asset management database records, inventory lists, system and facility lists, and listing of capital assets.