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*Saskatchewan Protocol Agreement - A Cooperative Approach to Prioritizing & Managing*

*Fisheries Issues at Power-generating Facilities.* Rick West, SaskPower, Darcy Lightle, Fisheriers and Oceans Canada

Abstract

In 2005, SaskPower and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) piloted a workshop under the auspices of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Canadian Electricity Association (CEA) and DFO. The objective of the workshop was to build a greater understanding amongst operational staff of each other's respective mandates and operations. As a result of this workshop, SaskPower and DFO agreed to develop a process by which SaskPower's facilities could be reviewed for compliance with the Fisheries Act and any necessary mitigations implemented on a priority basis. Since 2005, a steering committee comprised of DFO, SaskPower, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA) and Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SE) has been working to implement this process. A Protocol Agreement was signed in July of 2007 and sets out the objectives and governance of the process by which the Parties will prioritize issues, develop and implement an action plan, and resolve disputes. Three action plans have been developed under the Protocol Agreement and outlined the actions proposed to be undertaken to clarify and/or address prioritized issues at SaskPower facilities.