

# Descharme Lake PROPOSED MICROGRID

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

SaskPower is a company that makes and brings power to homes and businesses in Saskatchewan. Before power gets to you, it travels across power lines. Large poles hold up these power lines and are called power poles. We call all the power lines and poles “the power grid.”

Sometimes, power needs to travel very far to reach you. Especially if you live in small communities that are far away from other communities. Along a power line, things can happen that stop the power from arriving. A tree branch can fall on a power line, or the wind could make a power pole fall over. This can make the power go out.

We want your power to go out less. To help, we are building a small power grid, close to you. This is called a microgrid. This means the power does not need to travel as far to get to you. The power will be close by and have less chance of going out.

Right now, power needs to travel very far to get to Descharme Lake. Because it needs to come from so far away, it costs a lot of money. For example, we would need to spend \$1.8 million to trim branches away from the line this year alone, if we were not building a microgrid.

Microgrids work well in communities like Descharme Lake. They do not cost a lot of money and they decrease power outages.

The new microgrid will use sunlight to produce power and store it in a big battery. If the sun or battery is not making enough power, we will use two diesel generators as a backup so there will always be enough power for you. Eventually, we will take down the power line that brings power to you now. Before we take down that power line, we will make sure the microgrid is working well for your community.

We want the new microgrid to be ready before the summer of 2024.

## WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY

We came to Descharme Lake in July 2022 to talk with you before we made any big decisions. It is hard to go back and change things after we make big decisions. It's easier to hear from you and then make big decisions about the project.

One big decision is to find land to build the microgrid. We heard what you had to say about the area. Since May, Northern

Municipal Services has been helping us choose the best place for the microgrid. We want to reduce impacts to you and the environment, so this decision is very important for us.

We want to hear your thoughts and feelings about the microgrid. If you want to talk to us to ask questions or tell us about things you're worried about, you can call us at **306-240-5536** or **1-833-223-3370** or email **[IndigenousRelations@saskpower.com](mailto:IndigenousRelations@saskpower.com)**.

## WHAT IS NEXT?

We are working with Northern Municipal Services to choose a place for the microgrid. We will not start doing any work in Descharme Lake until we have bought or leased land from Northern Municipal Services. We will let you know where we will build the microgrid once we have bought or leased the land.

To get the land ready for the microgrid, we will need to clear some trees and make the land flat. This work will happen this summer or fall.

Right now, we are hiring somebody to help us buy the right equipment for the microgrid, like the battery and the generators. We will buy this equipment, put it together in a big box in Saskatoon, and bring it to Descharme Lake in the fall.

We will also hire somebody to build the solar panels at Descharme Lake. This work will happen in the fall.

## PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND US

We know that the decisions we make today affect what happens in the future. We want to protect our environment and the place you live. We use many tools and pictures to learn about the space we're working in.


Before we start working in Descharme Lake, we will make a plan that protects animals and where they live. We will also make sure the plan protects heritage features and ways you use the land. We are looking at these things as we work with Northern Municipal Services to find and buy or lease land. The province has many laws and rules for us to follow to make sure the environment is protected. We will be following these rules while we build the microgrid.

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## PROJECT SCHEDULE

- We'll decide how to build the microgrid and include your input – in 2023
- We hope to begin building the microgrid – in the fall of 2023
- We hope to finish building the microgrid – in the spring of 2024

## MICROGRID LAYOUT

- 1 Power line and poles
  - 2 Controller unit
  - 3 Dedicated energy source (diesel or propane)
  - 4 Battery energy storage
  - 5 Solar panels
-  New addition: microgrid

