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## Executive Summary

In 2012, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure (SMHI), completed the twinning and realignment of Highway 11 from north of Rosthern to south of MacDowall. In constructing the corridor, 26 wetlands were impacted, amounting to a cumulative loss of 15.5 hectares (ha) of wetland area.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SME) requested SMHI develop a wetland compensation plan to construct new, or restore, 8.6 ha of wetlands, the area of *natural* wetlands identified as impacted by the twinning. The wetland compensation plan was to consider the following general principles:

- Compensation activities should occur within the same watershed, with similar wetland types that incurred impacts, and result in the development of similar wetland classes and hydrological conditions;
- Restoration should take priority over creation of new wetlands;
- Compensation wetlands should be self-sustaining; and,
- Consider inclusion of upland buffers and protection at compensation sites.

SMHI decided to provide compensation for these wetland impacts through construction of new wetland areas. SMHI and Tetra Tech jointly selected a site on which the Compensation Wetlands were to be constructed; a SMHI gravel pit located in 15 and 16-35-039-04 W3M near Rheinland, SK (the Compensation Site), located within the same watershed as the twinning Project (tributary of the South Saskatchewan River). Gravel extraction of the remaining quality aggregates was first completed at the Compensation Site early in 2015, followed by grading of the site to provide the sub-grade contours and landscaping on which the Compensation Wetlands' final design was based.

SMHI retained Tetra Tech to provide assistance with the technical design, to undertake the tendering and administration of both the gravel extraction and the grading construction of the wetlands, and to provide bi-annual environmental monitoring of the wetlands' development to measure the progress and success in meeting the objectives of the compensation plan.