

Update to Agreement with Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. (Nutrien)

ISSUE

Mineral interests owned by active operators such as Nutrien, a corporate successor to Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. (PotashCorp), exist on land on the western edge of Saskatoon, including the Blairmore Sector, which is planned for future growth.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That terms and conditions of the Agreement with PotashCorp of Saskatchewan Inc. be approved; and
2. That His Worship the Mayor and the City Clerk be authorized to execute the Agreement with Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. on behalf of the City of Saskatoon under the Corporate Seal.

BACKGROUND

On May 6, 2011, PotashCorp and the City of Saskatoon (City) entered into an agreement regarding avoidance of conflict between PotashCorp's mining operations and the City's development.

On March 7, 2011, City Council approved amendments to the Blairmore Sector Plan. The amended Blairmore Sector Plan is consistent with terms of the agreement. It shows urban growth occurring from east to west and identifies the final phase of development located west of the West Swale as urban holding, rather than specific development areas. The City uses the 'urban holding' designation when there is not an approved Concept Plan for development, or when an area cannot be readily serviced.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

PotashCorp and the City wish to amend the original agreement to include adjacent land annexed to the City in 2015 (see Appendix 1). The proposed Blairmore Area Map is shown in Appendix 2 and is intended to replace Schedule 'A' within the original agreement.

PotashCorp and the City agree that all other terms and conditions in the said original agreement shall remain in full force and effect. The following is a summary of the terms of the agreement:

1. The City and PotashCorp wish to avoid potential conflict between mining operations and urban growth.
2. The City will focus on developing areas that will not be affected by mining operations.

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3. In the short term, the Blairmore Suburban Centre, Kensington neighbourhood, and future Elk Point neighbourhood will be developed, which will provide enough land for approximately 20 years of growth.
4. PotashCorp will mine no further east than its current operations, and will ensure mining operations occur outside the City's short and medium-term growth areas.
5. The City and PotashCorp will jointly monitor lands west of Neault Road and subject to the results of surface monitoring, lands will be brought into the development stream as needed.
6. The City and PotashCorp agree to meet on a regular basis to exchange information and to monitor areas of mutual interest.

If surface monitoring shows this final phase of development phase will be suitable for long-term urban growth, the Planning and Development Division will prepare more detailed plans for development and propose amendments to the Blairmore Sector Plan. In the interim, these lands will maintain their current Future Urban Development (FUD) zoning designation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

NEXT STEPS

If the amended agreement is approved, the revised Schedule 'A' would be included as part of any future considerations for amendments to the Blairmore Sector Plan.

PotashCorp and the City will continue to meet on a regular basis under the terms of the agreement.

APPENDICES

1. Agreement
2. Blairmore Area Map, Schedule "A"

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Ian Williamson, Senior Planner, Planning and Development

Reviewed by: Andrew Glum, Solicitor, City Solicitor's Office

Tyson McShane, Acting Manager of Long Range Planning, Planning and Development

Lesley Anderson, Director of Planning and Development

Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services Department

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