



Staff Report for Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date of Meeting: November 6, 2019

Report Number: SRPRS.19.176

Department: Planning and Regulatory Services

Division: Policy Planning

Subject: **SRPRS.19.176 Proposed Changes to Toronto and Region Assessment Report and Central Lake Ontario, Toronto Region and Credit Valley Source Protection Plan**

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement for proposed changes to the Toronto and Region Assessment Report and the Central Lake Ontario, Toronto Region and Credit Valley Source Protection Plan. These changes are required as a result of a new drinking water well installed in the Town of Aurora by York Region. Regulations under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* and the *Clean Water Act, 2006* require source protection agencies to obtain Council endorsements from each municipality affected by changes to Assessment Reports and Source Protection Plans.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That Staff Report SRPRS.19.176 be received;
- b) That Council endorse the proposed changes to the Toronto and Region Assessment Report and the Central Lake Ontario, Toronto Region and Credit Valley Source Protection Plan; and
- c) That this report be circulated to the Region of York, Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority, and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks.

Contact Person:

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Report Approval:

Submitted by: Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Regulatory Services

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Approved by: Neil Garbe, City Manager

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner and City Manager. Details of the reports approval are attached.

Background:

The *Clean Water Act*, 2006, was created to protect existing and future sources of drinking water through the delineation of vulnerable areas, identification of drinking water threats, and implementation of source water protection policies. The Act also requires the preparation of Source Protection Plans across the Province to establish policies to protect the quantity and quality of municipal water supplies. The Source Protection Plan that covers Richmond Hill is the Central Lake Ontario, Toronto Region and Credit Valley Source Protection Plan (CTC SPP), which came into effect on December 31, 2015.

Under the *Clean Water Act*, 2006, amendments to the CTC SPP requires Council endorsement from all local municipalities affected by the proposed changes in support of their application to amend the CTC SPP. Once all of the municipal resolutions have been received, a period of consultation will then take place to obtain feedback from the general public. Following this, the proposed amendments and all comments received through consultation will be submitted by the Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority for endorsement and then to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MOECP) for approval.

Discussion:

As part of the Yonge Street Aquifer Well Capacity Restoration Project, York Region constructed a new municipal well in the Town of Aurora, at the site of an existing municipal well. This new well would replace capacity in drawing groundwater that was lost through the normal aging of infrastructure, and return the system to its full permitted capacity. As part of the approval and commissioning process of this new well, the existing Wellhead Protection Areas in the Assessment Reports are required to be updated.

Updated modelling of groundwater flows show an expansion of the existing Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) into the jurisdiction of the City of Richmond Hill, covering an area in the northwest corner of the City near Bathurst Street and Bloomington Road West. Map 1 to this staff report shows the expanded WHPA boundaries as determined through the updated modelling.

Although the new municipal well located in the Town of Aurora is within the Lake Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Authority's jurisdiction, the area in Richmond Hill affected by the expanded WHPA is under the jurisdiction of the Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority. York Region staff have confirmed that

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the boundary of the Source Protection Plans will not be modified as part of the proposed changes, and that the policies of the CTC SPP will apply to the WHPA in Richmond Hill.

Changes to the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan

Minimal changes to the Toronto and Region Assessment Report and the CTC SPP are being proposed through this project. Changes to the Assessment Report primarily involve mapping changes to reflect the new/expanded WHPA, as well as text changes to add the Aurora Drinking Water System in the Report. The only change to the CTC SPP being proposed is the updating of one figure to include the new WHPA; no policies are being added or amended, and the existing policies of the CTC SPP will apply to the new/expanded WHPA.

Currently, assuming that all affected municipal Councils endorse the recommended changes, York Region and the Source Protection Authorities expect to submit the proposed amendments to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks for final approval in Spring 2020.

Impacts of the Wellhead Protection Area to Richmond Hill

The Wellhead Protection Area that extends into Richmond Hill is classified as WHPA-D. The WHPA-D limit represents the 25-year time of travel, or that groundwater (and any contaminants in it) within the WHPA-D limit could reach the wellhead within 25 years. A number of factors impact the time of travel for groundwater, including the slope of land and the type of soil.

Policies of the CTC SPP that affect lands under a WHPA-D designation include:

- Encouraging municipalities to require a salt management plan for roads proposed as part of new subdivision applications within the WHPA-D area (SAL-10);
- Work with MOECP to consider best practices in salt application within the WHPA-D area (SAL-11);
- Require private owners of unassumed roads and parking lots greater than 200 square metres within the WHPA-D area to have a salt management plan to reduce salt application, and require the use of trained individuals to apply salt to these properties (SAL-12); and
- Encourage and promote best management practices for the handling and storage of dense non-aqueous phase liquids and organic solvents for existing and future Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional uses within the WHPA-D area (DNAP-3, OS-3).

The impact of these policies on Richmond Hill is expected to be minimal, as the area covered by the WHPA-D area is occupied primarily by existing residential subdivisions, an existing automotive service commercial station located on the southeast corner of Bathurst Street and Bloomington Road West, and parks and other protected natural

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features. The policies of the CTC SPP would not restrict the continued operation of any existing uses within the WHPA-D area.

A separate Official Plan Amendment is not required at this time to update the City's policies to reflect the presence of the WHPA and implement the relevant policies of the CTC SPP. As the City is currently beginning its Official Plan Update, any policy or regulatory changes that are required will be considered as part of the Official Plan Update process.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

There are no related costs to the City. The Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority, along with York Region, will manage all public consultation required for the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan amendments. City staff will remain engaged in the process as required to support the proposed modifications. Local municipal policy changes will be incorporated into the Official Plan Update process, which is currently underway.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan:

The recommendations of this report meet Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan: Wise Management of Resources in Richmond Hill by protecting drinking water sources and mitigate potential drinking water threats.

Conclusion:

Based on the above, staff recommend that Council endorse the proposed changes to the Toronto and Region Assessment Report and the Central Lake Ontario, Toronto Region and Credit Valley Source Protection Plan, and that a copy of the endorsement be circulated to York Region and the Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority for inclusion in their application to amend the CTC SPP.

Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. If you require an alternative format please call the contact person listed in this document.

- Map 1 – Comparison of Wellhead Protection Areas

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRPRS.19.176 Proposed Changes to Toronto and Region Assessment Report and CTC Source Protection Plan.docx
Attachments:	- SRPRS.19.176 - Map 1 - Comparison of Wellhead Protection Areas.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Oct 23, 2019

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Patrick Lee - Oct 23, 2019 - 3:12 PM

Kelvin Kwan - Oct 23, 2019 - 3:18 PM

Neil Garbe - Oct 23, 2019 - 3:58 PM