



April 21, 2008

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Mr. John Waller
Director, Long Range and
Strategic Planning Branch
Planning and Development Services Dept.
York Region
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON, L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Waller,

Re: Analysis of potential York Region growth scenarios in respect to nutrient loadings

LSRCA staff completed an analysis of the potential growth scenarios for northern York Region utilising the intensification assumptions you provided us. These assumptions were based on 30%, 40% and 50% levels of intensification. The analysis was completed using the CANWET model using the same parameters (climate, drainage) as was used during the Assimilative Capacity Study (ACS) to ensure consistency and also comparison to established data.

As you are aware from the data provided you from the model output, all scenarios potentially will result in a reduction of both phosphorus and nitrogen due the change in land use associated with the development of the landscape. The reductions, while minor, do indicate that non-point loading of nutrients will potentially decrease as a result of development, since urban development, along with current best management practices for urban storm water typically reduces the amount of phosphorous and nitrogen runoff from the lands in comparison to agricultural contributions. This analysis did not include any analysis of any opportunities to further reduce nutrient loadings lower through the use of additional Best Management Practices (BMPs). The development analysis included the base assumption that all growth will require the use of stormwater control measures as required by the Ministry of Environment and the LSRCA.

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In addition to the above, there is a potential benefit to be accrued from a protected and enhanced natural heritage system in developing areas. The level of this enhancement has yet to be determined, however additional modelling once the preferred scenario is determined will assist in this regard.

When York Region selects a preferred intensification and growth scenario the

LSRCA recommends that a further detailed analysis of the scenario be completed as well as considers the potential effects in respect to water budgets, natural heritage and stream flow.

We trust the information provided will be of significant assistance to staff in considering future growth in York Region and the Lake Simcoe Basin. We look forward to working with you in the near future on this initiative.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

Rob Baldwin
Manager, Watershed Science

cc.

Virginia Hackson, Chair, LSRCA
Gayle Wood, Chief Administrative Officer, LSRCA
Mike Walters, Director, Watershed Management