

South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

May 9, 2011

Denis Kelly
Clerk
York Region
17250 Yonge Street, Box 147
Newmarket, ON, L3Y 6Z1

NOTICE



REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. -

119
→ E. Mahoney

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE YORK REGION AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

NOTICE UNDER O.REG.287/07

**SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN PREPARATION FOR DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION
IN THE SOUTH GEORGIAN BAY LAKE SIMCOE (SGBLS) SOURCE PROTECTION REGION**

Dear Clerk Kelly,

We are writing to advise you about the upcoming preparation of a Source Protection Plan for Drinking Water Threat activities in the SGBLS Source Protection Region. This letter serves as a notice under Ontario Regulation 287/07.

Background

The Ontario *Clean Water Act, 2006* and the associated Regulations have prompted the formation of the SGBLS Source Protection Committee. The mandate of this Committee is to develop a science-based Source Protection Plan to ensure the protection of clean and plentiful municipal drinking water sources.

The first task of the Source Protection Committee was to develop its own Terms of Reference (TOR) for each of the three Source Protection Areas within the SGBLS Source Protection Region. The Terms of Reference outlined all the steps to be taken to develop and implement a Source Protection Plan. The TOR for our Source Protection Region was approved by the Ministry of the Environment in June 2009.

The second step in the process was to develop an Assessment Report (AR) for each Source Protection Area in the SGBLS Source Protection Region. The Assessment Reports identify vulnerable areas where municipal drinking water sources might face a risk of contamination or depletion and identifies drinking water threats within those vulnerable areas. After two consultation periods, the Proposed Assessment Reports for the three Source Protection Areas (Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Area; Nottawasaga Valley Source Protection Area; Severn Sound Source Protection Area) were submitted to the Director of the Ministry of the Environment's Source Protection Programs Branch on December 17, 2010. The third step in the Drinking Water Source Protection process, the preparation of a science-based Source Protection Plan for each Source Protection Area in the SGBLS Source Protection Region has now begun.

Source Protection Plans

The Source Protection Plans will build on the information contained in the earlier reports. The Source Protection Plans will outline policies and programs to eliminate or mitigate existing significant threats and to ensure that no new threats develop and may include policies and programs to address moderate or low drinking water threats.

The SGBLS Source Protection Region is committed to keeping our municipal partners informed and engaged in the Source Protection Process, specifically now that we are entering the policy development phase. The Source Protection Committee has formed a Policy and Planning Working Group which is overseeing development of policy options for the Committee. The Working Group is supported by conservation authority and municipal staff representing a cross-section of municipalities. The Source Protection Committee will review the policy options to select draft proposed policies and will consult with municipalities and other stakeholders starting in later 2011.

The Source Protection Committee has a number of tools at its disposal to develop Source Protection Plans, including:

1. Prescribed Instruments (provincial approvals such as Certificates of Approval)
2. Risk Management Plans (site-specific plans negotiated with owner and Risk Management Official)
3. Prohibition of Activities
4. Restriction of Activities (for example using municipal planning tools under the *Planning Act*)
5. Education and Outreach and Incentive Programs
6. Combination of the above

The Source Protection Committee will strive to maximize accountability and transparency in the preparation, consultation and implementation of Source Protection Plan policies. Municipalities' Official Plans must conform to the Source Protection Plan policies that deal with significant drinking water threats and have regard for policies addressing moderate and low drinking water threats, when approved by the Minister of the Environment.

If your council would like further information, a presentation or a discussion with SGBLS Source Protection staff or SPC members, please let me know. You will also receive notification when there is a formal opportunity for your municipality to review and to provide input on the draft policies.

We look forward to working with you as we make progress towards **completion of this process by August 2012**. Thank you for your ongoing assistance with Drinking Water Source Protection. Should you require further information or have any questions, please contact Don Goodyear, Director, Source Protection Planning, at the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority at 905-895-1281 ext 246.

Yours sincerely,



Lynn Dollin
Chair, South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee

CC: Don Goodyear, Director, Source Protection Planning