

PROPOSED YORK REGION WELLHEAD PROTECTION POLICIES – SECTION X OF THE UPDATED REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN

Wellhead Protection Areas are zones around wells where land uses must be planned to protect the quality and quantity of the water supply. In these areas, it may be necessary to restrict or even prohibit certain land uses from locating due to their potential to impact groundwater quality and drinking water quality. These restrictions will be identified in Regional and area municipal official plans and the land uses restricted through zoning by-laws and such other means as may be available to the municipality.

General Policies applicable throughout the Region

It shall be the policy of Council:

1. To identify and incorporate *wellhead protection area* policies and mapping in this Plan and to require area municipalities to incorporate *wellhead protection area* policies and mapping into their official plans and zoning by-laws, in consultation with the Region and to assist area municipalities in the review and approval of site management and contingency plans as required by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan to ensure that land uses do not pose a *significant threat* to Regional wells.
2. To update studies and modeling at least every 5 years to refine the location and extent of *wellhead protection areas* for all municipal wells. Changes that expand the *wellhead protection area* or change policies will require an amendment to this Plan. Reductions to the extent of *wellhead protection areas* will not require an amendment. In either circumstance consultation with the Province and local municipalities shall be required prior to any changes being made.
3. To establish *wellhead protection areas* with *time of travel* zones on Map X as follows:
 - A 100 metre pathogen zone around each wellhead and
 - “time of travel” zones of 0 to 2 years; 2 to 5 years; 5 to 10 years and 10 to 25 years.
4. In *wellhead protection areas*, a Risk Assessment must be conducted, as prescribed by the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, as amended from time to time, and a Risk Management Plan must be developed prior to the establishment of new land uses which involve the storage or manufacture of petroleum based fuels, solvents, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, construction equipment, inorganic chemicals, road salt listed in Schedule 3 to Regulation 347 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990, made under the *Environmental Protection Act R.S.O. 1990, c.E.19*, as may be amended from time to time, the generation and storage of hazardous waste or liquid industrial waste and waste disposal sites and facilities, organic soil conditioning sites, and snow storage and disposal facilities.
5. That except for the storage of agricultural source material (manure) for personal or family use, the storage or use of *pathogen threats*, by new uses is prohibited within the 100 metre pathogen zone around each municipal well, shown on Map X and restricted within the 100 metre to 2 year time of travel.

6. That redevelopment and/or expansion of existing legal non-conforming uses within the 100 metre zone is prohibited and redevelopment and/or expansion of existing legal non-conforming uses within the 100 metre to 5 year *time of travel* zones will be discouraged.
7. To investigate the need and potential for undertaking risk management planning including spills response, contaminant recovery and aquifer rehabilitation plans where land uses exist involving the storage of contaminants in identified *wellhead protection areas*.

On the Oak Ridges Moraine:

8. That the storage of animal manure, undertaking of animal agriculture and the storage of agricultural equipment for other than personal or family use is prohibited in the 0 to 2 year time of travel zone in wellhead protection areas.
9. To consider restrictions on haulage routes along Regional roads for transportation of chemicals and volatile materials in wellhead protection areas and in areas of high aquifer vulnerability in accordance with transportation policies in section X of this Plan.
10. In the case of a conflict between the *wellhead protection area* policies and mapping in this Plan and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan policies, the more restrictive policies shall apply.

As well, the Definitions section of the Regional Official Plan will be amended to include the following:

Wellhead Protection Area - Means the surface and subsurface area surrounding a water well or well field that supplies a municipal water system and through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move so as eventually to reach the water well or well field.

Time of Travel - Refers to the estimated time required for groundwater to move from a given location in an aquifer to the intake of a water well. A wellhead protection area is typically divided into individual time of travel zones.

Pathogen Threats - Refers to drinking water quality threats that are related to conditions or activities that have the potential to introduce living microorganisms that cause disease into the groundwater. Sources of pathogens include, but are not limited to, septic systems, animal manure, sewage systems and stormwater management ponds.

Significant Threat - Means a condition or activity that has a high potential to negatively impact the quantity and/or quality of groundwater that supplies a municipal well.