

REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. - P07

Ministry of
the Environment

Office of the Minister

77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto ON M7A 2T5
Tel.: 416 314-6790
Fax: 416 314-6748

Ministère de
l'Environnement

Bureau du ministre

77, rue Wellesley Ouest
11^e étage, édifice Ferguson
Toronto ON M7A 2T5
Tél.: 416 314-6790
Télééc.: 416 314-6748



ENV1283MC-2010-2939

August 9, 2010

Mr. Bill Fisch
Regional Chair and CEO
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Fisch: *Bill*

I received a July 5, 2010 letter from Mr. Christopher Raynor, Deputy Regional Clerk, regarding Regional Council's approved staff comments on the government's Environmental Registry postings of the Proposed Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Reduction Strategy (PRS - 010-8986), the Feasibility Study for Water Quality Trading (WQT - 010-8989), and the Shoreline Protection Discussion Paper (010-9107).

During the posting period, the ministry received the Region of York staff comments, subject to the Regional Council's approval. The ministry has considered your staff comments during the finalization of the PRS, consideration of how to proceed with WQT, and development of the proposed Shoreline Protection Regulation.

With respect to the PRS, the province has released the final Strategy and it is available on-line at www.ontario.ca/lakesimcoe. The Strategy is a long-term (35 years) phased approach which identifies actions for reducing major sources of phosphorus entering Lake Simcoe and its watershed to achieve the goal of 44 tonnes/year. The Strategy adopts a watershed approach to reducing phosphorus from each major source including sewage treatment plants, urban and rural runoff, atmospheric deposition and private septic systems.

With respect to the WQT, after considering the feedback received, the ministry has decided to conduct further studies related to the potential design and operation of a water quality trading program. For additional details, the ministry's decision note is available on the Environmental Registry (010-8989). This further evaluation will be undertaken in consultation with watershed stakeholders and Aboriginal communities before making a decision on whether or not to develop a water quality trading regulation and program for the Lake Simcoe watershed. Comments from the Region of York will continue to be taken into account in the further evaluation of a potential water quality trading program for the Lake Simcoe watershed.

...2

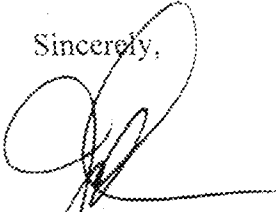
Mr. Bill Fisch
Page 2.

With respect to the Shoreline Protection Discussion Paper, the ministry intends to release a draft regulation for public comment this summer. The draft regulation will include the details of how a proposed regulation could further protect the shorelines of Lake Simcoe and its watershed.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on the review, finalization, and where deemed necessary, the implementation of these proposals in the near future.

Thank you, again, for taking the time to review these important proposals and for providing valuable feedback.

Sincerely,



John Gerretsen
Minister

c: Mr. Christopher Raynor
Deputy Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of York