

### Section I – Items for Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority Action

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority  
Friday, January 29, 2021 Meeting

**FROM:** Laurie Nelson, Director, Policy Planning

**RE:** **SUBMISSION OF SECTION 34 AMENDMENTS TO TORONTO AND REGION  
SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY ASSESSMENT REPORT AND CTC  
SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN**

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#### KEY ISSUE

To obtain endorsement from the Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority (TRSPA) to submit amendments to the TRSPA Assessment Report and the Credit Valley-Toronto and Region-Central Lake Ontario Source Protection Plan (CTC SPP) to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP).

#### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority (TRSPA) endorses the recommendation of the Credit Valley-Toronto and Region-Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Source Protection Committee to submit amendments to the TRSPA Assessment Report and the CTC Source Protection Plan under Section 34 of the *Clean Water Act*, 2006 to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP);**

**AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to take the necessary actions to prepare and transmit the required documents and information to the MECP.**

#### BACKGROUND

The *Clean Water Act*, 2006 (CWA) and Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 287/07 allow for amendments to be made to Assessment Reports (AR) and Source Protection Plans (SPP). Under Section 34 of the CWA, a Source Protection Authority can make amendments that cannot wait until a more comprehensive Section 36 update and do not qualify as minor administrative amendments under Section 51. At Meeting #3/20 of the CTC Source Protection Committee (comprising Credit Valley, Toronto and Region and Central Lake Ontario Source Protection Authorities), held on November 23, 2020, by Resolution #23/20, the Committee endorsed technical work completed for the Aurora-Newmarket Wellfields for incorporation into the Approved Assessment Report for the Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority (TRSPA) and the CTC Source Protection Plan. The Committee also directed that the Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority complete the actions necessary to submit the revised Toronto and Region Assessment Report and the CTC Source Protection Plan to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) for approval.

#### RATIONALE

The Yonge Street Aquifer (YSA) Well Capacity Restoration Environmental Assessment project identified a new well location in Aurora aimed at recovering lost well capacity due to aging infrastructure and water quality issues within the existing YSA well system. In 2016, a new production well was constructed in Aurora (Aurora PW7). The wellfield is shown in **Attachment 1**. Although the existing maximum permitted water taking rates for the other YSA wells and the overall YSA maximum permitted capacity will remain the same, the changes in water takings will alter the existing Aurora and Newmarket Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs). A Drinking Water

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Works Permit is required prior to activation of Aurora PW7. The MECP will have a condition in this permit requiring an update to the Approved Assessment Reports for the TRSPA and Lake Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Areas, as well as the Approved Source Protection Plans for the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe (SGBLS) and CTC Source Protection Regions. In accordance with the *Clean Water Act*, 2006, the YSA water supply system underwent a vulnerability assessment in 2007 (EarthFx and Azimuth, 2007; revised in 2009) and a drinking water quality threats assessment in 2010 (Stantec, 2010). The introduction of Aurora PW7 to the YSA water supply system required an update to the YSA vulnerability and threats assessment (Vulnerable areas shown in Attachment 1). York Region staff presented the updated wellhead protection areas to the CTC SPC on October 8, 2019. CTC SPC Resolution #18/19 accepted the technical work for inclusion in the TRSPA Assessment Report and directed staff to complete the public consultation process and report back to the committee.

CTC and SGBLS staff completed a 35-day consultation process in February 2020. No comments were received from the public, but ongoing discussions and meetings with the MECP resulted in minor changes to the mapping of the extents of WHPAs B, C, and D. Within the TRSPA, these included a small expansion of the WHPA-D to the south. However, the increased area is less than 1 ha, and virtually indistinguishable from the previous mapping. There were no changes to the enumeration of significant drinking water threats in the TRSPA jurisdiction, since significant threats are not possible in a WHPA-D. MECP has provided preliminary direction to CTC and SGBLS staff regarding consultation on the minor changes to the mapping. Where the extent of vulnerable areas is reduced, MECP recommends notifying landowners or businesses that based on updated science and modeling, the area they are in is no longer identified as an area where significant drinking water threats can occur, and that therefore SPP policies no longer apply. This circumstance does not apply within the CTC Source Protection Region as significant threats are not possible in a WHPA-D.

The existing Source Protection Plan policies will adequately protect the new Aurora well with no additional policies anticipated as part of this amendment. Policies directed at the application of road salt (SAL 10-13), the handling and storage of dense non-aqueous phase liquids (DNAP-3), and the handling and storage of organic solvents (OS-3) will apply to moderate and low threats in the WHPA-D.

### **Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan**

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

**Strategy 2 – Manage our regional water resources for current and future generations**

**Strategy 4 – Create complete communities that integrate nature and the built environment**

**Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models**

### **FINANCIAL DETAILS**

All costs related to this work are to be paid by the Province of Ontario through the 2020-2021 funding agreement between the TRCA and MECP.

### **DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE**

Once endorsement by the Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority of proposed amendments has been obtained, staff will prepare the materials for submission to the Province. When the amendments are submitted and reviewed by the MECP, and following any further consultation that the Ministry considers advisable, the Ministry will advise that they have been approved. Amendments to the TRSPA Assessment Report and the CTC Source Protection Plan

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will be posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario with a date that they will become effective.

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**Date: December 4, 2020**

**Attachments: 1**

Attachment 1: Aurora/Newmarket Wellfield with Wellhead Protection Areas A-D and  
Vulnerability Scoring