



Environmental Services Department

Memorandum

TO: Committee of the Whole
FROM: Erin Mahoney, Commissioner of Environmental Services
DATE: September 17, 2015
RE: **Provincial Approval of Source Protection Plan for the Central Lake Ontario, Toronto Region and Credit Valley Source Protection Region**

This memo provides a copy of the approval notice (Attachment 1) from the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change for the Central Lake Ontario, Toronto Region and Credit Valley (CTC) Source Protection Plan. Minister Murray formally approved the Plan on July 28, 2015 and indicated the policies will take effect on December 31, 2015.

How does this affect York Region and local municipal partners?

On the effective date, *Planning Act* and *Building Code Act* decisions must be consistent with Source Protection Plan policies, and within five years Official Plans and Zoning By-laws must be updated to conform to the Source Protection Plan.

Regional and local municipal staff have been using existing tools and processes to advance Source Water Protection in York Region since the policies were drafted. For example, source protection policies and mapping were introduced through Regional Official Plan Amendment 5 (ROPA 5), which came into effect on November 13, 2013. Approval of the Source Protection Plan will provide additional authority and formalize the process, without significant change to how business is currently conducted. Within the CTC portion of York Region (Attachment 2), the majority of policies apply within wellhead protection areas located in Kleinburg, King City, Nobleton and Stouffville, due to the predominance of lake based drinking supply in the southern municipalities.

As outlined in the March 2015 report to Council, approval of the Source Protection Plan for the Lake Simcoe watershed occurred in January 2015 and policies took effect on July 1, 2015. Regional staff have been collaborating with local municipal staff to implement land use planning policies, which are almost identical to those in the CTC Source Protection Plan. Requirements for proposed development are similar to external agency approvals, and form part of a complete application occurring at the front end of the process. The work required to review applications for conformance with Source Protection Plan policies rests with the risk

management office at the Region. Feedback to date from local municipal staff indicates workload has not increased and legislated timelines for municipal decisions have not been impacted due to Source Protection Plan policies.

How does this affect businesses?

Existing businesses located within the most vulnerable portions of wellhead protection areas are required to negotiate Risk Management Plans in consultation with the Region to mitigate potential risk to drinking water. Regional staff worked with a number of farmers and business owners in advance of Source Protection Plan approvals to negotiate Risk Management Plans on a voluntary basis. This early experience has shown that overall the business and agricultural communities in York Region are good environmental stewards. Much of the processes and infrastructure to prevent potential impairment of the environment and drinking water were already in place. The twenty Risk Management Plans negotiated to date have been addressing relatively minor gaps, such as spill containment and spill response equipment. The Council approved incentive program has significantly reduced the financial burden to businesses and farms (by more than 95 per cent on average) and is the reason for early program success.

Next steps

Local municipal staff and Regional staff have been collaborating for a number of years to understand Source Protection Plan policies at the draft stage, to improve upon them during consultation periods, and to prepare for implementation. To ensure all affected local municipal staff have the information and tools required for formal implementation beginning in 2016, a workshop is planned for this fall with the support of CTC Source Protection staff. A similar workshop was held this past spring for the Lake Simcoe watershed municipalities.

Building on ROPA 5, Regional Official Plan policies will be revised or added to conform to both approved Source Protection Plans as part of the Municipal Comprehensive Review currently underway. Templates and policy text have been drafted to assist local municipalities with their conformity exercises, some of which are also underway.

Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.

DG/sl

Attachments (2)

Copy to: Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health, Community and Health Services, Public Health
Adelina Urbanski, Commissioner, Community and Health Services
Daniel Kostopoulos, Commissioner, Transportation Services
Dino Basso, Commissioner, Corporate Services
Val Shuttleworth, Chief Planner, Corporate Services

#6199830

Ministry of the Environment
and Climate Change

Ministère de l'Environnement et de
l'Action en matière de changement
climatique



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JUL 28 2015

Mr. Nando Iannicca
Credit Valley SPA Chair
1255 Old Derry Rd.
Mississauga, Ontario
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Ms. Maria Augimeri
Toronto and Region SPA Chair
5 Shoreham Drive
Downsview, Ontario
M3N 1S4

Ms. Susan Self
CTC Source Protection Committee Chair
42 Balsam Street N.
Uxbridge, Ontario
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Mr. Don Mitchell
Central Lake Ontario SPA Chair
100 Whiting Avenue
Oshawa, Ontario
L1H 3T3

Dear Mr. Iannicca, Ms. Augimeri, Mr. Mitchell, and Ms. Self:

It is a pleasure to inform you that the review of the source protection plans, developed under the Clean Water Act, 2006, for the Central Lake Ontario, Toronto Region and Credit Valley source protection areas within the CTC source protection region has been completed. Pursuant to section 29 of the Clean Water Act, I approve the plans for the Central Lake Ontario, Toronto Region and Credit Valley source protection areas.

I appreciate the efforts undertaken by the CTC source protection committee and authority and all stakeholders to assess and develop plans to protect drinking water sources in your community. Thank you for all your hard work, leadership and commitment.

Your community is to be commended on the achievement of this important milestone. This is an example of the local, inclusive, community-based approach to protecting source water envisioned by the Clean Water Act. The province has been pleased to support the development of the Central Lake Ontario, Toronto Region and Credit Valley source protection plans with an investment of \$24,653,954 since 2004. An additional \$1,300,020 was provided within the CTC source protection region for various projects under the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program to landowners, municipalities and the conservation authority to take action to protect drinking water.

Following today's approval of the plans, in order to allow time to prepare for implementation, the Central Lake Ontario, Toronto Region and Credit Valley source protection plans will take effect on December 31, 2015. Please ensure that this date is clearly stated in the plans.

Under section 36 of the Clean Water Act, when a source protection plan is approved, an order must also be given that governs the review of the plan. Pursuant to clauses 36 (1) (c) and (d), and as an initial step in the development of detailed requirements that will govern the plans' review, the Toronto and Region source protection authority shall prepare and submit a workplan to the ministry. The workplan shall propose the detailed steps for the review of the plans, including which portions of the plans are to be reviewed, the timeframes for each step of the review and the consultation that would be undertaken as part of the review, and rationale for each step. A summary of how the workplan was developed shall also be included. The workplan shall be developed in consultation with the CTC source protection committee, participating municipalities of the CTC source protection region, and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

The development of the workplan must take into consideration any experience that has been gained from implementing the source protection plans and information from the first annual progress reports on plan implementation (due May 2018). Accordingly, the workplan shall be submitted to the ministry no later than November 30, 2018. Once the workplan is submitted and reviewed by the ministry, and following any further consultation that the ministry considers advisable, a further order can be issued under section 36 that specifies more detailed requirements outlining the content and timeframes that will govern the review of the plans for the Central Lake Ontario, Toronto Region and Credit Valley source protection areas.

The committee has included a number of policies in the plans that request the province create or modify programs, or introduce new legislation. The ministry very much appreciates the advice of the source protection committee on how it may protect drinking water sources. The ministry will conduct an analysis on how to best achieve the policy objectives. The results of this analysis will be communicated to the Toronto and Region source protection authority when the ministry reports on its implementation of policies in the plans.

The plan includes a comprehensive set of policies to address activities that contribute to elevated sodium and chloride in the groundwater in Orangeville and Georgetown. In addition to on-the-ground actions such as the establishment of risk management plans, there is a policy asking the province to implement a provincial licensing and accreditation program for those applying road salt. There is also a policy that directs municipalities and the source protection authority to investigate the sources of sodium and chloride that contribute to the drinking water issue and to sample the raw water supply of the affected drinking water systems monthly.

I look forward to seeing the progress made towards addressing the local sodium and chloride issues in your first annual progress report in 2018, and the opportunity to continue working with you and other groups to strengthen our actions in reducing sodium and chloride impacts from the application of road salt. Before the province considers a new licensing and accreditation program for road salt application, we would like to see whether the implementation of the other policies reduces the concentrations of sodium and chloride in the aquifers in Orangeville and Georgetown.

I would also like to acknowledge the committee's supplementary recommendations on the future of the program, submitted December 19, 2014. These recommendations, along with annual reports on the implementation of source protection plans, will help us plan the path forward for drinking water source protection. With your commitment, significant progress has been made in source protection and the Province looks forward to continuing to work with you and all stakeholders to protect drinking water.

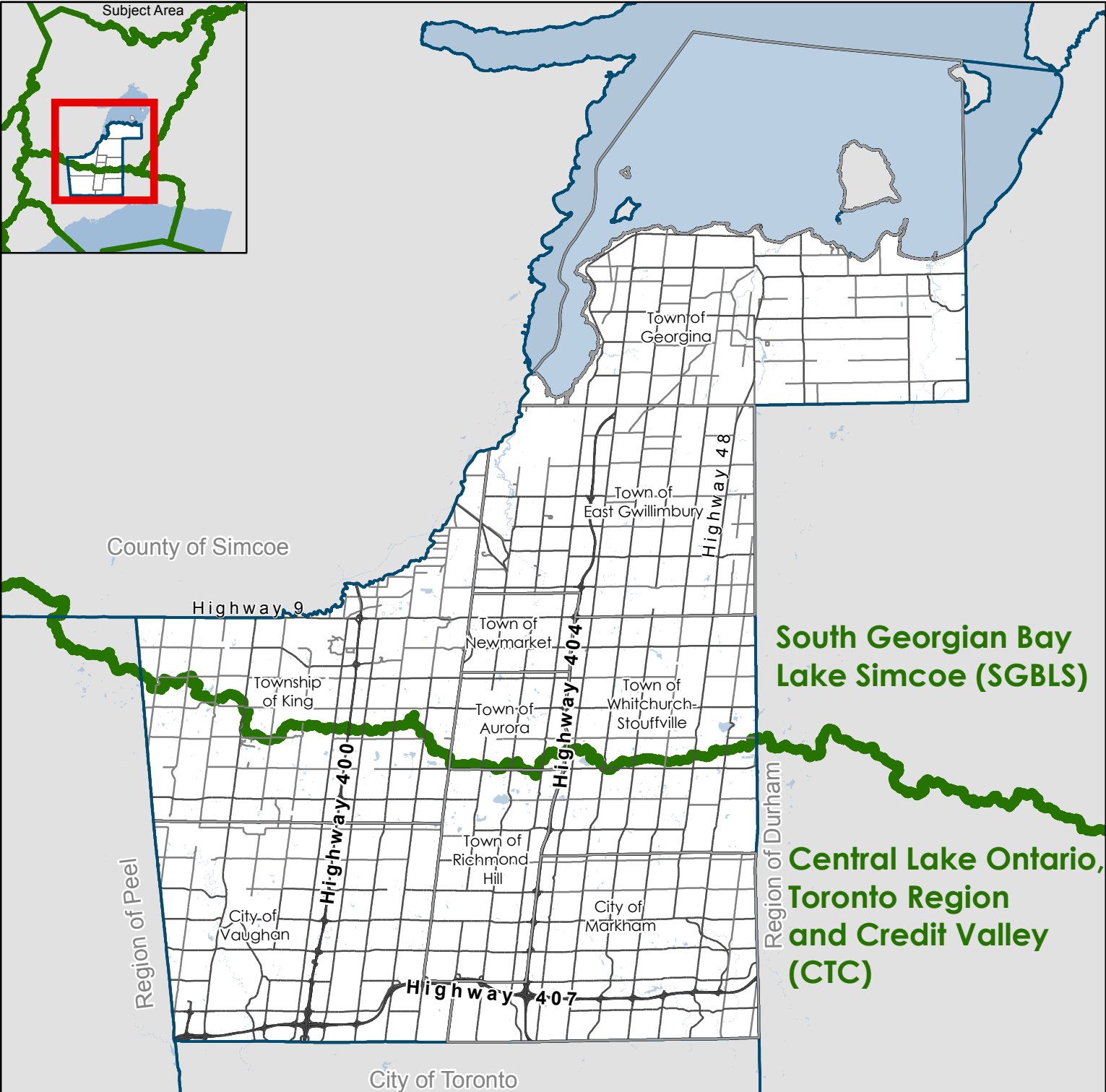
Once again, thank you for your work to protect Ontario's source waters, and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,



Glen Murray
Minister

- c: Sue Lo, Assistant Deputy Minister, DWMD, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
- Ling Mark, Director, SPPB, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
- Beverley Thorpe, Project Manager, CTC Source Protection Region






**South Georgian Bay
Lake Simcoe (SGBLS)**

**Central Lake Ontario,
Toronto Region
and Credit Valley
(CTC)**

Source Protection Regions

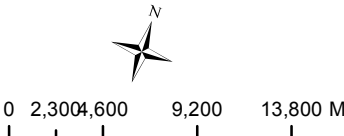
Provincial Approval of Source Protection Plan for the Central Lake Ontario, Toronto Region and Credit Valley Source Protection Region (September 17, 2015)

Legend

-  Source Protection Region Boundary
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Regional Boundary

Produced by: Water Resources
The Regional Municipality of York
Environmental Promotion & Protection, Environmental Services
August, 2015

Data Sources:



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