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Source Protection Plan and Region Assessment Report Amendments Staff Report to Council

Report Number: 2019-98

Department(s): Planning and Building Services

Author(s): Adir Glikson, E.I.T.

Meeting Date: October 15, 2019

Recommendations

1. That the Staff Report entitled, “Source Protection Plan and Region Assessment Report Amendments” dated October 15, 2019, be received; and,
2. That the proposed policy amendments, identified in this report, to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report, specifically to reflect the decommissioning of Newmarket Well 14 and the newly installed Aurora Well 7, be endorsed; and,
3. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement on the proposed amendments to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan (the SPP) and the Region Assessment Reports (the Assessment Reports).

Background

Clean Water Act

The *Clean Water Act, 2006* (The Act) was developed to ensure that source water is safe and high-quality prior to entering municipal drinking water treatment systems. Source

water is defined as any untreated body of water such as rivers, lakes, springs and underground aquifers that provides raw water. The Act describes the need to establish a collaborative, locally driven, science-based process that addresses concerns directly at the source. The approach is a multi-barrier method that encourages mutual responsibility from every stakeholder to further increase source water protection.

One of the first regulations to come out of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* was to divide the province into independent source protection areas. Parallel to this, each district requires the support of a Source Protection Committee (SPC) who is responsible for the creation of a Source Protection Plan (SPP). SPPs are vital as they outline the Region's policies to effectively mitigate current and future drinking water threats.

Another governing body, known as the Source Protection Authority (SPA), is in place to lay out the groundwork for the source protection process. Figure 1 is a map of the SPAs in the Region. The Town of Newmarket, in particular, is under the jurisdiction of the Lake Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Authority.

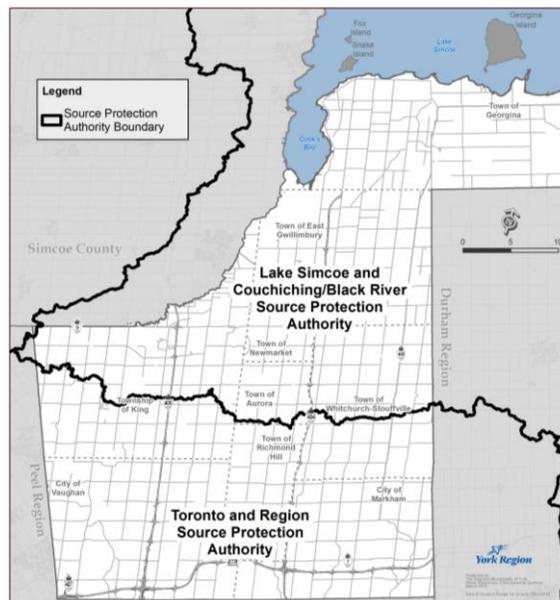


Figure 1: York Region's Two-Source Protection Authorities

Source Protection Plan

The South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan came into effect on July 1st, 2015 and is critical to York Region and Newmarket's multi-barrier approach on clean and safe drinking water. The SPP outlines policies on source water protection for effectively:

- 1) Safeguarding human health
- 2) Ensuring adequate safe, clean water is available; and
- 3) Managing current and future sources of municipal drinking water from significant threats.

Assessment Reports

Assessment Reports are open, technical documents that describe the work required to complete the SPP. Information that can be found in the assessment report are the following:

- 1) Vulnerable areas and risks to drinking water
- 2) Water quality and quantity issues related to water sources
- 3) Local watersheds and assessments of available water supply
- 4) Assessment of the risk to water systems

Both the SPP and the Assessment Reports are continually refined as systems change and updated. Any amendments require the endorsement of the Region and local Municipalities that are directly affected.

For the full Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report, please visit <https://ourwatershed.ca/>.

Discussion

This project is the responsibility of the Region and the only action required by the Town is the endorsement of the amendments to the SPP and the Assessment Report by Town Council. Amendments to the SSP are required due to the addition of a new well and the decommissioning of an older well that is no longer in use.

Installation of Aurora Well No. 7

York Region has recently completed the installation of a new groundwater well infrastructure (Aurora Well 7) in the Yonge Street Aquifer area. Aurora Well 7 is located on the same site of existing Aurora Well 5; South-East quadrant of St. John's Street and Old Yonge Street. A map of Aurora Well 7 can be found in Attachment 1.

The purpose of the upgrade is to address efficiency losses due to ageing infrastructure. In doing so, the Region further increases the protection of its drinking water sources and minimizes future threats.

Removal of Newmarket Well No. 14

Newmarket Well 14 is located in the North-East quadrant of Leslie Street and Davis Drive. The well has not been used for water supply in over 12 years and is expected to be decommissioned in the near future with a date not yet confirmed by the Region.

Similar to Well 7 in Aurora, Newmarket Well 14 exhibited inefficiencies due to ageing infrastructure. The Region expects no impact on the water supply in the area considering there are several of other wells in the area which are all interconnected and can mitigate any impacts. Aurora Well 7 will also replace Newmarket Well 14 as a source of water. A map of Newmarket Well 14 can be found in Attachment 2.

Well 14 is also located on the same site as an Elevated Tank (ET), more commonly referred to as a water tank. The Region periodically utilizes this ET when other ETs are offline for maintenance and is expected to continue to be used for the foreseeable future.

The SPP and the Assessment Report will need to reflect these changes.

Impact to Newmarket

It is anticipated that there will be little to no impact on the Town and its residents as a result of removing Well 14 in Newmarket and the installation of Well 7 in Aurora. Essentially, one groundwater well is being replaced by another.

The resulting amendments completed to the SPP and the Assessment Reports require endorsement from all parties directly impacted by the changes as mandated by the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. Changes to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report are being made to reflect the work described above.

Conclusion

The recent installation of a new drinking water source (Aurora Well 7) and the future removal of Newmarket Well 14 protects the integrity of the Region's water treatment systems and mitigates future threats. As mandated by the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, any updates to a source water infrastructure must be reflected in the Assessment Reports and the Source Protection Plan.

Although there is no direct impact on the Town and its residents as a result of the project, amendments completed to both the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan and the Assessment Report require endorsement from the Region and local municipalities.

Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages

Strategic Priorities

Environmental Stewardship

- Support a highly effective partnership with LSRCA, MECP, York Region, Newmarket Hydro, and others who provide funding and support.

Consultation

External consultation with the Region has been made and is ongoing. This is in order to gain a better understanding of the Region's intentions with the property and update Council on any new development.

Additionally, internal consultation with Engineering Services and Public Works was completed with both parties posing no concerns with the installment of Well 7 in Aurora and the removal of Well 14 in Newmarket.

Human Resource Considerations

There is no human resource consideration associated with this report.

Budget Impact

None.

Attachments

- Attachment 1 – Map of the location of Aurora Well No. 7
- Attachment 2 – Map of the location of Newmarket Well No.14

Approval

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Community Energy Plan Intern

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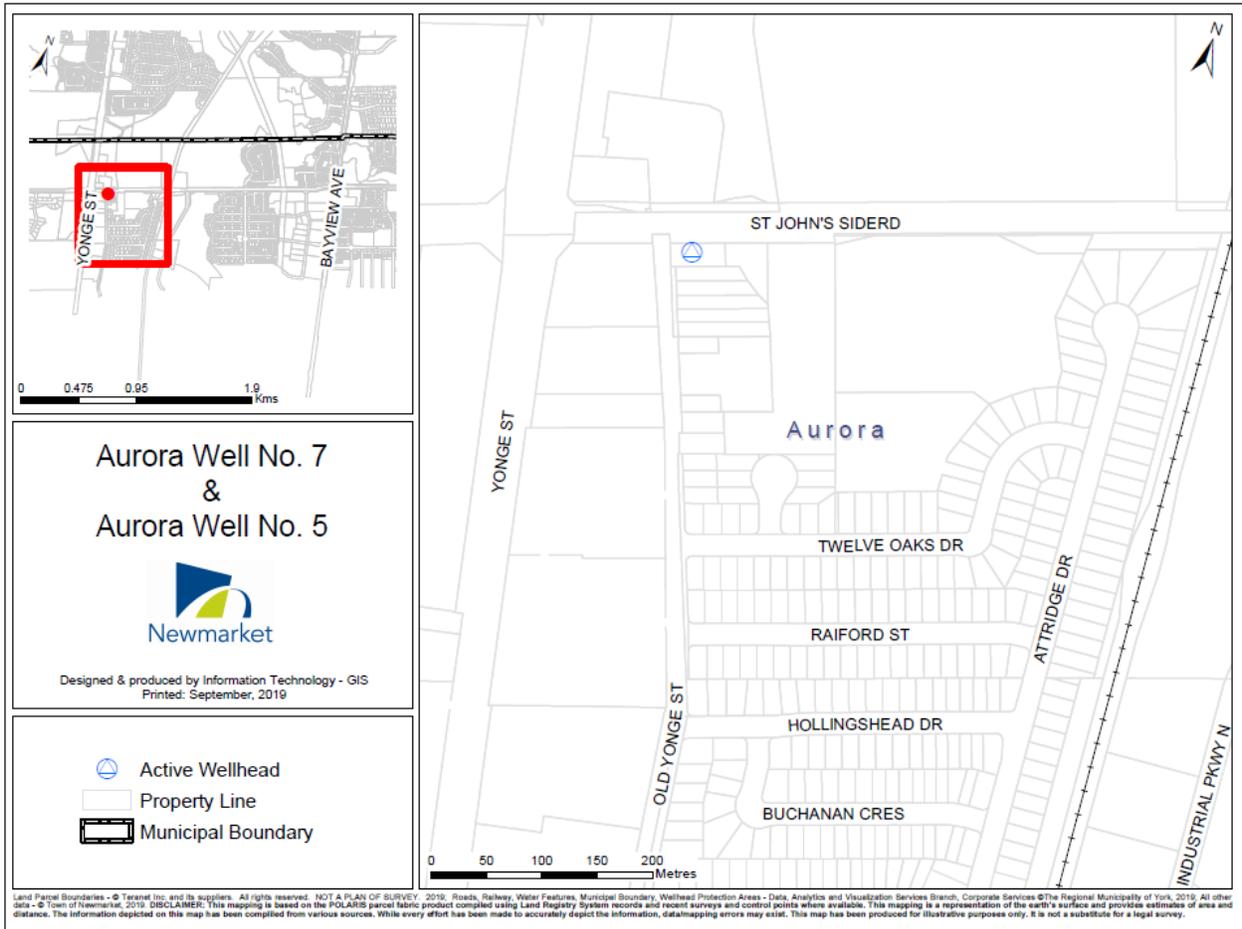
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Contact

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Attachment 1



Attachment 2

