

Thames – Sydenham and Region Drinking Water Source Protection Source Protection Committee Discussion Paper

Report to Chair and members
Thames – Sydenham and Region
Source Protection Committee

Agenda # 2009.02.7e

Cc SP Management Committee

Date February 3, 2009

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Re: Preliminary MOE comments on Terms of Reference

Background

- The Terms of Reference for the region were submitted to the Ministry of the Environment on December 17
- A single submission was made by the Project Manager on behalf of the 3 Source Protection Authorities in the Region
- The submission followed the completion of the second review period and resolutions from the Source Protection Authorities.

Discussion

- Through telephone discussion with MOE staff reviewing the terms of reference we have been made aware of the following issues with the terms of reference
- Possible actions are listed with the issues for the consideration of the SPC
- There is the possibility of resolving some of these issues prior to completion of the review period. Any unresolved issues could be sent back to the SPC to resolve.

Item	Description of Issue	Possible actions
1	Number of intakes for West Elgin – when the Terms of Reference was submitted it was unclear whether the new treatment plant at West Elgin was able to draw water from the near-shore intake. This was pointed out to the MOE in the cover letter. This intake was utilized for the old treatment plant when the main intake was not functional (generally due to frazil ice). It was determined that, although the intake requires some work to be fully functional, the plant does have the ability to draw water from that intake. Council has been requested by the plant operator to undertake to clean out the intake and make other modifications that would allow it to become fully functional.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct the number of intakes listed for the plant in the database, guide and LTVSPA ToR, to indicate 2 intakes • Remove the references in the document to the uncertainty associated with this additional intake for this treatment plant
2	Request for additional task by West Elgin -during the final round of consultation OCWA submitted a request on behalf of West Elgin to add a task to the Terms of Reference for the municipality to lead the development of policies related to the source of drinking water supplying their treatment plant. It was not possible to receive the required council resolutions, nor was	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minister could order that this task be added • Undertake discussions with the municipality to insure that they understand the responsibilities associated with undertaking this

	<p>it possible for the ToR to be revised to include that task without discussion with the SPC. This unresolved issue was drawn to the attention of the MOE in the cover letter. Through discussions with the MOE it has been suggested that it is not necessary to amend the Terms of Reference until such time as work can begin on this task</p>	<p>task. A council resolution would be required for the SPC to include them as the lead for this task</p>
3	<p>Lead for Screening of First Nations Water Supplies – was left to be determined. All tasks however, must be assigned a lead. Only a municipality, SPA or SPC can be assigned a lead. As this work is not required for the completion of the Assessment Report it has been suggested that it be removed from the Terms of Reference. The work identified in the task may provide the First Nations, the province and the Region with information which might inform the decision of the First Nations whether they wish to include their systems in the Source Protection Plan. The work is still planned and it has been reconfirmed, through discussions with MOE, that the work can proceed without further commitment for participation in Source Protection Planning by the First Nation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the task from the Terms of Reference • Continue discussions with the First Nations to determine if they wish to undertake these studies
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasks missing in some of the Terms of Reference – general tasks which were undertaken on a regional basis were carried in the UTRSPA ToR. In some cases cross references were added to the other ToR referencing the fact that the costs were carried in the UTRSPA ToR. Unfortunately this was not done for all of the tasks where the work was done on the entire region. The concern of MOE is that if someone were to look at a single ToR they would not be aware that this work is planned. If the guide is reviewed in its entirety it is clear that the work is planned. MOE is considering whether this requires revision. As there are other revisions required at this time it is likely best to clear up this now. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add appropriate references for the missing tasks in the other 2 Terms of Reference
5	<p>Number of Wells in Mitchell - It has come to our attention that the number of wells related to the Mitchell (West Perth) system is incorrect. The technical work includes 4 wells while the Terms of Reference indicates 3 wells. A new well was added all 4 wells are still in service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct the number of wells associated with this system to indicate 4 wells.