



UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Thames - Sydenham and Region
c/o Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
1424 Clarke Road, London, ON, N5V 5B9

September 17, 2009

Ian Smith
Director - SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAMS BRANCH
8th Floor
2 St Clair Ave W
Toronto ON M4V1L5

Re: Changing jurisdiction on pipelines

Dear Ian,

It has been brought to the attention of the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee that there are some changes planned in the jurisdiction and standards for pipelines in Ontario. As you are aware, our Source Protection Committee is concerned about the risks to drinking water posed by pipelines across our region. We appreciate the Ministry's response to our previous letter on the subject. The committee wanted to draw your attention to the potential for change in jurisdiction and standards and inquire as to its effect on the ability to address the risks that the affected pipelines may pose to drinking water sources in the region.

It is our understanding that the change affects only certain types or classes of pipelines which until now were administered through provincial standards. The change would shift those pipes to be administered through the same processes and to the same standards as the other pipelines which have always been subject to federal administration and standards. Although we understand that there will be a limit to what can be done to reduce the risks posed by federally regulated activities, this shift from provincial to federal regulation is seen by the committee as further limiting the committee's options in dealing with risks from these pipelines.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority 100 Thames Street, Chatham, Ontario, N7L 2Y8	St. Clair Region Conservation Authority 205 Mill Pond Cres., Strathroy, Ontario, N7G 3P9	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority 1424 Clarke Road, London, ON N5V 5B9
phone 519-354-7310, fax 519-352-3435	phone 519-245-3710, fax. 519-245-3348	phone 519-451-2800, fax 519-451-1188



We would appreciate any information that you would be able to provide in relation to this shift in regulation.

Yours truly,
Thames-Sydenham and Region

Bob Bedggood, Chair
Source Protection Committee

cc SPC



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Paul Heeney,
 Manager - SOURCE PROTECTION IMPLEMENTATION
 8th Flr
 2 St Clair Ave W
 Toronto, ON M4V1L5

Re: First Nation eligibility for well head improvements

Dear Paul

The Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee recently toured parts of the region including one of the First Nation groundwater supply systems. The committee was lead on a tour of the treatment facility by the system operators and observed the similarities to many of the municipal systems which they have had the opportunity to visit. It was however, evident how susceptible the wells are to threats from surface water. The Source Protection Committee observed that funding through current MOE programs could be utilized to better protect these systems and the aquifers that we collectively rely upon for our drinking water. Simple improvements to the wellhead would make their drinking water source far less vulnerable to contamination from surface water.

The Source Protection Committee applauds the province's initiatives to fund improvements such as these where they would offer protection to municipal wells. The Source Protection Committee however feels strongly that these First Nations water supply systems should be offered similar funding opportunities. This protection could be funded either through the Early Actions funds administered through the Conservation Authorities or through Special Project funding administered directly by the MOE.

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Our Source Protection Committee has asked that we provide the ministry with a letter supporting the eligibility of these systems for funding. Also, please let us know if we could assist in dissemination of information to the communities or otherwise facilitate funding to assist the First Nations in protecting the groundwater sources that both the First Nations communities and many of our local municipalities rely on for their drinking water.

Yours truly,
Thames-Sydenham and Region

Bob Bedggood, Chair
Source Protection Committee

Cc Derekica Snake
Robert Olivier
Gus Tobias
Source Protection Committee members
Jack Robertson, LTVCA