

Grand River Source Protection Authority

Report number: SPA-02-25-01

Date: February 28, 2025

To: Members of the Grand River Source Protection Authority

Subject: Submission of the amended Grand River Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report

Recommendation:

THAT staff be directed to submit the amended Grand River Source Protection Plan to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for approval.

Summary:

Work under Section 34 of the of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* to amend the Grand River Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan has been completed for proposed updates that affect the City of Hamilton.

The amendment includes incorporation of a replacement well at the Lynden Communal Well System in the City of Hamilton to replace a well that has been decommissioned.

Following completion of a consultation process, the Grand River Source Protection Authority has the responsibility to submit the amended Grand River Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks for approval. The Grand River Source Protection Authority does not approve these documents but may include any comments it wishes to make, along with the submission package as outlined in O. Reg. 287/07.

Report:

Amendments to drinking water source protection plans can be initiated locally, for instance because of changes to a municipal drinking water system, under Section 34 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*.

The Grand River Source Protection Plan has been amended to incorporate:

- A replacement well at the Lynden Communal Well System in the City of Hamilton,
- New water quality policies to manage potential drinking water threats from liquid hydrocarbon pipelines, and
- Updates to City of Hamilton (Lynden) policies to conform with changes to the provincial Technical Rules that were made in 2021.

The City of Hamilton operates a groundwater water supply and distribution system located in the Lynden Rural Settlement Area, in the Grand River Source Protection Area. The system consists of two pumping wells (FDL1R and FDL03). FDL1R is a replacement for FDL01, which was decommissioned in 2023. Updated wellhead protection area maps and drinking water threat assessments have been incorporated into the Grand River Assessment Report.

In 2018, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) revised the Ontario Regulation 287/07 to include “the establishment and operation of a liquid hydrocarbon pipeline” as a prescribed drinking water threat. As the hydrocarbon pipeline industry is heavily regulated both federally and provincially, the new source protection policies focus on ensuring source

protection is considered as a risk factor in pipeline operations, emergency planning, and siting of new pipelines.

Source protection technical work and policy updates have been completed and presented to the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee.

As part of the Section 34 amendment process, municipalities and ministries affected by the amendments were notified of the proposed changes and provided an opportunity for pre-consultation. A municipal council resolution in support of the amendments was received from the City of Hamilton. A formal public consultation period followed, and notification letters were provided to property owners affected by the proposed changes. No comments were received during public consultation.

The Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee has reviewed the amendments and results of the consultation and released the draft amended Grand River Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan to the Grand River Source Protection Authority for submission to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks for approval. The Grand River Source Protection Authority does not approve these documents but may include any comments it wishes to make, along with the submission package as outlined in O. Reg. 287/07.

Financial Implications:

Not applicable. The Source Protection Program is funded 100% by the Province and costs have been accounted for in the approved budget.

Other Department Considerations:

Not applicable.

Prepared

Shari Dahmer
Source Protection Program Manager

Approved by:

Samantha Lawson
Chief Administrative Officer