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## **11.0 STATE OF CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH IN THE LAKE ERIE SOURCE PROTECTION REGION**

Research into the consequences of climate change, modeled as a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub>, has been completed in Ontario and the Lake Erie basin with many of the recent studies incorporating the changes already seen in the Great Lakes regional climate such as (Bruce et al., 2006; Chiotti and Lavender, 2008; Kunkel et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2000). Research on climate change and water resources in the last decade is thought to be more reliable than earlier studies, given that recent studies have been able to incorporate observed changes, and take advantage of better modeling tools (IPCC-TGICA, 2007). Many recent studies agree that greater and more frequent temperature and precipitation extremes are expected in the Lake Erie basin. An annual average increase in both temperature and precipitation are the driving predictions for the differences in water resources for Ontario and the Lake Erie basin (Kling et al., 2003). For the Long Point Region subwatersheds, research in the Lake Erie basin is the most appropriate unit of measurement for local scale impacts of climate change.

Annual average air temperature in the Lake Erie basin (including the Long Point Region subwatersheds) is expected to increase only slightly; McBean and Motiee (2008) estimate a 0.8°C increase by 2050. The small increase, however, masks the intra-annual changes, as seasonal temperatures and diurnal temperatures are expected to fluctuate more dramatically, resulting in much warmer winter temperatures (Bruce et al., 2000; Cunderlik and Simonovic, 2004; Jyrkama and Sykes, 2007; Kunkel et al., 2002; Mortsch et al., 2000). Daily temperatures in the summer are projected to gradually increase towards 2030, with a more rapid increase occurring to 2100 that could have daily average summer temperatures 10°C higher than the 1960-1990 average (Kling et al., 2003).

The projected effects of a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub> on precipitation are extensive. Annual total precipitation is expected to increase over the next 50 years in the Great Lakes basin (McBean and Motiee, 2008), but the distribution throughout the year will be altered. Sharif and Burn (2006) estimate that only the months of January, March and October will have increased monthly precipitation; while the period between April and September, when water demands are highest, may see a decrease. Precipitation is expected to shift from snowfall to rain as winter temperatures rise (Bruce et al., 2000; Mortsch et al., 2000). The extreme events for precipitation will be of higher intensity and frequency (McBean and Motiee, 2008), at the expense of more gentle and persistent rainfall events experienced in the past (Mortsch et al., 2000).

For the Long Point Region Conservation Authority, Staple (1993) summarized the findings of a study of Long Point Bay temperature and precipitation changes from the base of comparison years 1900-1989. The study found that a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub> could lead to the mean air temperature increasing by 5.7°C; precipitation decreasing by 6.3% to 857 mm annually; and the lake level to drop by 1.35 m. The greatest temperature changes are expected to occur in winter and spring, with increases as high as 10.5°C. Seasonal precipitation fluctuations are also expected to increase: most concerning of which are the reductions in precipitation of up to 35% in the period from August to December (Staple, 1993). While this study was specific to the Long Point Region watershed area, the data and research is over 15 years old and could be considered out-dated due to the continued scientific findings since 1993.

Warmer winter temperatures are projected to be the most influential change for water resources in the Long Point Region watershed area. Some of the changes predicted include more winter precipitation as rain, a smaller snowpack, higher evaporation from open water bodies that no longer freeze, and an earlier and weaker spring freshet (Barnett et al., 2005; Bruce et al., 2000;

Environment Canada, 2004a; Jyrkama and Sykes, 2007; Mortsch et al., 2000). Soil moisture will be higher in the spring, but drop lower in summer due to higher evapotranspiration. This will lead to more frequent drought occurrences and greater demands on water resources for irrigation (Brklacich, 1990; McBean and Motiee, 2008). Precipitation trends will change to more intense storms, causing a decrease in infiltration and groundwater recharge (de Loe and Berg, 2006; McLaren and Sudicky, 1993), higher sediment and nutrient loading in the creeks due to greater erosion (McBean and Motiee 2008), and fewer days with rain or longer dry periods (Mortsch et al., 2000). Net basin water supplies are projected to decrease, following overall decreases in runoff, infiltration, higher surface water temperatures and greater evapotranspiration (Lofgren et al., 2002; Mortsch et al., 2000). Overall, climate change is expected to shift averages in temperature, precipitation and evaporation, which will lead to increased variability, and more frequent and intense storm events (Francis and Hengeveld, (1998) in de Loe et al., 2001).

### **11.1 Potential Effects of Climate Change on Water Quantity and Quality**

The predictions on climate change in the Long Point Region watershed area have implications to both water quality and quantity. In terms of water quality, the increase in air temperature and greater occurrence of extreme precipitation events will lead to degraded water quality, including lower dissolved oxygen rates and higher stream temperatures (Bruce et al., 2000; Chiotti and Lavender, 2008; Cunderlik and Simonovic, 2004). Higher sediment and nutrient loading are expected in the creeks due to greater erosion (McBean and Motiee, 2008), which when coupled with increase in water temperature, will allow for an increase in nutrient concentrations and a rise in the number of cyanobacteria and algal blooms. Algal blooms will lead to more taste and odour problems in drinking water, higher risk from water-borne diseases, and increased water treatment costs (Chiotti and Lavender, 2008; Hunter, 2003; de Loe and Berg, 2006).

Decreases in runoff and baseflows are also important changes with respect to the dilution of sewage treatment effluent, given that less water will be available for wastewater assimilation (de Loe and Berg, 2006). The problem of reduced wastewater assimilative capacity is exacerbated by the projected increase in future populations in these areas and the ability of the system to meet wastewater discharge criteria (Bruce et al., 2000; Cunderlik and Simonovic, 2004).

From a water quantity perspective, climate change is expected to shift the timing of seasonal events. An earlier and lower spring freshet can be expected. Additionally, Lake Erie levels are expected to rise and fall one month earlier on an annual basis because of increased lake surface temperatures (Lenters, 2001; Lofgren et al., 2002; Millerd, 2006). The longer frost-free periods could lead to increased evapotranspiration and an increase in drought occurrence (Environment Canada, 2004a; McBean and Motiee, 2008), meaning that longer, drier and warmer growing seasons will lower soil moisture and increase demand for irrigation (Brklacich, 1990; McBean and Motiee, 2008). Rainfall is expected to fall with more intensity but on fewer days, leaving longer dry spells that may exacerbate seasonal water shortages during low flow periods (Mortsch et al., 2000).

Projected reductions in groundwater recharge leading to drawdowns of between 2 to 7 m will require wells to be drilled deeper, thereby increasing costs to land owners and municipalities. This could also lead to rural domestic and urban water use conflicts (de Loe and Berg, 2006; McLaren and Sudicky, 1993). The predicted changes in climate in the Lake Erie basin could compromise the reliability of water resources. The increased unpredictability of the hydrologic cycle will demand more planning and adaptation by water managers (de Loe and Berg, 2006).

### **11.2 Potential Impacts of Climate Change on Lake Erie Levels**

Climate change impacts on Lake Erie will have important consequences. Anticipated changes in lake levels are a function of the altered water balance of the basin, including higher precipitation, a decrease in runoff, higher evapotranspiration, and an increase in lake surface temperature (Jones et al., 2006; Lofgren, 2006; Millerd, 2006). Increasing water temperature in both summer and winter are projected for Lake Erie, causing large increases in evaporation especially in winter months. Net basin water supplies will be diminished (Mortsch, 2006), as increases in precipitation are not expected to overcome the decreases in water due to increased evapotranspiration (Millerd, 2006).

Winter ice formation on Lake Erie is expected to decrease considerably, and in some years be non-existent (Lofgren et al., 2002). Typically, Lake Erie freezes over almost entirely in the months of January and February, which limits lake-effect snowfall (Kunkel et al., 2009). As a consequence of open water in winter months, the lake-effect storm season off Lake Erie will be longer (Mortsch et al., 2000); however, more of this precipitation will fall as rain due to increases in air temperatures above the optimal ranges for snow ( $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) (Kunkel et al., 2002).

The seasonal variation in Lake Erie levels is also projected to increase, with low levels occurring more frequently. This is expected to be most pronounced in the shallower western portion of Lake Erie (Lofgren et al., 2002; Mortsch et al., 2000; de Loe and Kreutzweiser, 2000). According to the results of 3 Canadian GCM scenarios (Millerd, 2006; Mortsch et al., 2000), the decline in annual Lake Erie levels could be as much as 0.60 m to 1.36 m from the International Great Lakes Datum of 1985 of 173.5 m.

Jones et al. (2006) concluded that Lake Erie is possibly the most vulnerable of the Great Lakes to the effects of climate change, as it is the most southerly, shallowest and lowest volume and thus more susceptible to changes in thermal regime and lake levels. The impact of decreasing lake levels to the drinking water intakes in Lake Erie would be costly if dredging or pipe extensions were required. Additionally, with decreasing lake levels, drinking water intakes will be at shallower depths, making the raw water more susceptible to degradation.

### **11.3 Effect of Projected Climate Changes on Assessment Report Conclusions**

Projected climate changes may affect the assessment report conclusions with respect to the groundwater and creek-sourced drinking water supplies in the Long Point Region. The Long Point Region Water Budget and Local Area Risk Assessment (Tier 3 study) shows a significant water quantity risk for the Simcoe water supply system under future drought conditions.

The location and shallow, 0.9 metre depth of the Port Rowan water supply intake make it more vulnerable to declining Lake Erie levels than other Lake Erie intakes. The Port Dover water supply intake, at a depth of 2.9 metres is somewhat less vulnerable to declining Lake Erie levels than the Port Rowan intake. The Nanticoke water supply intakes, at a depth of 6.5 metres are less vulnerable to declining Lake Erie levels than other intakes along Lake Erie.

Increasing nutrient loads and water temperatures, combined with shallower Lake Erie depths, have the potential to increase the occurrence of taste and odour problems, which are currently noted to be of concern, particularly for the Port Rowan and Port Dover water supplies.

## **12.0 CONSIDERATION OF GREAT LAKES AGREEMENTS**

Under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, the following Great Lakes agreements must be considered in the work undertaken in Assessment Reports:

- Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA)
- Canada – Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem (COA)
- Great Lakes Charter
- Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the Canada – Ontario Agreement generally deal with water quality concerns, while the Great Lakes Charter, the Great Lakes Charter Annex, and the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement provide principles for joint water resources management and water quantity and quality concerns in the Great Lakes Basin.

### **12.1 Long Point Region Watershed Area and Great Lakes Agreements**

The Long Point Region watershed area drains directly into Lake Erie and has the potential to contribute pollutants to the lake. These pollutants, including sediments and nutrients, as well as organic and inorganic contaminants, contribute to the overall water quality of the nearshore of Lake Erie, including, but not limited to the IPZ's of the Nanticoke, Port Rowan and Port Dover drinking water intakes.

In order to achieve water quality goals and objectives set under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, Canadian and U.S. federal governments are addressing Areas of Concern (AOC) through Remedial Action Plans (RAP). No AOCs were identified in the Long Point Region watershed area in the GLWQA, and thus no remedial action plans are in place.

Additionally, the federal governments of Canada and the US have developed Lakewide Management Plans (LaMP) in conjunction with the Province of Ontario and the States within the Great Lake watersheds. Lakewide Management Plans are broad plans to restore and protect water quality in each Great Lake (Environment Canada, 2005). The Lake Erie LaMP, introduced in 2000, established an ecosystem vision for Lake Erie based on sustainable development and recognition of the multiple benefits of a healthy lake to society (United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2006). Since 2000, the Lake Erie LaMP has focused research and projects on nutrient management, biodiversity and habitat, emerging Issues, and monitoring.

A bi-national nutrient management strategy is currently being developed that will “define the goals, objectives, targets, indicators, priority watersheds, monitoring and research needed to limit further eutrophication and improve current conditions in Lake Erie” (United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2010). This strategy will be an important foundation for future Great lakes targets under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. In particular, the Long Point Region tributaries of Big Creek, Nanticoke Creek, Big Otter Creek and Lynn River contribute approximately 15% of the total Phosphorus loading to the Eastern Basin of Lake Erie (Dolan and McGunagle, 2005). Reducing the loads from these tributaries will be an important focus of long-term water quality objectives for Lake Erie.

Many projects to improve water quality in tributaries of Lake Erie in the Long Point Region watershed area have been undertaken under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and Canada-Ontario Agreement. Projects to improve tributary water quality include tree planting, buffer strips, land acquisition in sensitive areas, sediment flow monitoring and wetland restoration.

One example of a project undertaken with funding provided under the Canada-Ontario Agreement included successfully buffering over 80% of the unbuffered riparian areas in the South Creek subwatershed and tributaries of Hahn Marsh near the base of the Long Point peninsula.

The work undertaken and described in this Assessment Report contributes to the achievement of Goal 6 under Annex 3: Lake and Basin Sustainability under the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem (Environment Canada, 2004b). The report addresses two key results identified under Goal 6 of Annex 3 by identifying and assessing the risks to drinking water sources in Lake Erie (Result 6.1), and developing knowledge and understanding of water quality and water quantity Issues of concern to Lake Erie (Result 6.2).

The Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement is a good faith agreement between the 8 U.S. Great Lakes States and the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec intended to implement the Great Lakes Charter and the 2001 Great Lakes Charter Annex. The Agreement sets out objectives for the signatories related to collaborative water resources management and the prevention of significant impacts related to diversions, withdrawals and losses of water from the Great Lakes basin (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 2005a). The agreement sets out conditions under which transfers of water from one Great Lake watershed into another (intra-basin transfer) can occur. The surface water intakes in Long Point Region are not considered to be intra-basin transfers since wastewater is discharged back into the Lake Erie watershed.



## **13.0 CONCLUSIONS**

The Long Point Region Source Protection Area Assessment Report provides a summary of the results of technical studies undertaken to identify the threats to municipal drinking water sources in the Long Point Region watershed area. Assessment Report findings are used to develop policies for a Source Protection Plan to protect the sources of drinking water for the Elgin, Oxford, Norfolk and Haldimand County water supply drinking water systems within the Long Point Region Watershed.

### ***Watershed Characterization***

The Long Point Region Source Protection Area is located in southwestern Ontario and covers an area of approximately 2,900 km<sup>2</sup> draining to Lake Erie. Much of the land of the watershed is used for agriculture. The main urban areas are the towns of Simcoe and Tillsonburg.

Residents in the Long Point Region watershed receive drinking water supplies from both private and municipal supplies. Groundwater and surface municipal water systems provide water to the majority of the population in the watershed. In Oxford County, Tillsonburg and the villages of Dereham Centre, Otterville, Springford and Norwich are serviced by municipal groundwater wells (note: the communities of Otterville, Springford and Norwich form the Oxford South water system). In Norfolk County, Simcoe, Waterford, Courtland and Delhi are serviced by municipal groundwater wells. Port Rowan and Port Dover are serviced by intakes from Lake Erie. In Haldimand County, the Nanticoke intake provides water to a number of communities including the Nanticoke Industrial Park, Jarvis, and Hagersville in the Long Point Region and the Mississaugas of the New Credit Reserve in the Grand River watershed. In Elgin County the village of Richmond is serviced by municipal groundwater wells. Municipal water, from sources outside the Source Protection Area, provide water to residents of the communities of Mount Elgin, Port Burwell and Vienna.

The geology of the Long Point Region watershed is dominated in the west and central portions by the Norfolk Sand Plain and in the east by the Haldimand Clay Plain. The northern portion of the watershed is comprised of low to moderate relief till moraines of the Horseshoe Moraine/Mount Elgin Ridges.

The Norfolk Sand Plain is characterized as a low-relief, silty sand and gravel sand plain, rich in water, with high infiltration, high groundwater recharge and good baseflows in the creeks. It is intensively used as an irrigation source for both mixed farming and cash crops. Two overburden aquifers are the main source of water for water supplies. However, since the soils are more permeable, this also allows for superficially applied chemicals to more easily enter the shallower groundwater aquifers and impact well supplies.

The Haldimand Clay Plain east of the communities of Waterford and Simcoe is characterized by heavy clay soils; much of the land is poorly drained and is used predominantly as livestock pasture and for soybean, corn and hay production. In this area, groundwater is generally obtained from the bedrock because sufficient quantities of water cannot be obtained from the overburden. Groundwater drawn from the bedrock aquifers in this area is often poor in quality as a result of naturally elevated concentrations of sulphur, salts and minerals in the water. For this reason, municipal drinking water supplies have tended in more recent years to be sourced from Lake Erie.

Stream water quality and temperature are influenced by the geology and current land use. The Haldimand Clay Plain and moraine areas support livestock operations and general cash crop production. Lack of riparian cover can result in higher water temperatures and phosphorus



concentrations from runoff. The specialty crops and high irrigation and nutrient application rates in the Norfolk Sand Plain result in elevated nitrate levels due to infiltration and runoff. However, high groundwater recharge and discharge rates create sufficient water quality to support cold water fisheries. Nutrient levels, primarily nitrate, phosphorus and non-filterable residue, are the main surface water quality concerns throughout the Long Point Region watershed.

### ***Water Quantity Stress and Risk Assessment***

The Long Point Region has among the highest density of Provincial Permits to Take Water in Southern Ontario. Most of these permits are for agricultural irrigation. Water demands in the Long Point Region watershed are high. The surface water subwatershed stress assessment classifies eight subwatersheds as having a moderate potential for stress under existing conditions (South Otter, Big Creek Above Cement Road, Big Creek Above Delhi, Venison Creek, Dedrick Creek, Lynn River, Nanticoke Upper and Stoney Creek) and two subwatersheds a significant potential for stress under existing conditions (North Creek and Young/Hay Creeks).

The Tier 2 Water Budget and Stress Assessment classified four subwatersheds as having a moderate potential for stress under existing conditions (Big Creek Above Delhi, Big Creek Above Minnow Creek, North Creek and Lynn River), one subwatershed moderate potential for stress under future conditions (Otter Creek at Tillsonburg) and two subwatersheds significant potential for stress under existing conditions (Big Creek Above Kelvin Gauge and Nanticoke Upper). The Tier 3 Water Quantity Risk Assessment for these three systems was completed in April 2015. The Tier 3 Assessment identified a “significant” water quantity risk for the Simcoe water supply. A technical study, also called a Risk Management Measures Evaluation Process (RMMEP) was undertaken and completed in November 2016. This process is used to rank the water quantity threats and select and evaluate Water Quantity Risk Management Measures (RMM), using the water budget model developed in the Tier 3 Assessment, to determine what measures can be used to manage the water quantity risks to drinking water.

### ***Water Quality Risk Assessment***

Aquifer vulnerability was assessed across the watershed using the Surface to Aquifer Advection Time (SAAT) method. The resulting analysis shows areas of medium and high aquifer vulnerability over most of the watershed area, roughly coincident with the shallow, unconfined aquifer of the Norfolk Sand Plain. The northern extents of the watershed coinciding with the Horseshoe Moraines/Mount Elgin Ridges, and the eastern portion of the watershed, coinciding with the Haldimand Clay Plain, were assessed as low vulnerability.

Given that the maximum vulnerability score a Highly Vulnerable Aquifer can receive is a 6, activities cannot become significant threats within Highly Vulnerable Aquifers. To date, no drinking water Issues have been identified in the Highly Vulnerable Aquifers.

Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas were delineated using water budget tools. Groundwater recharge was estimated using a hydrologic model.

### ***Dereham Centre, Oxford County***

The Dereham Centre municipal water supply system includes one well completed in the intermediate overburden aquifer that services a population of approximately 47. Four Wellhead Protection Areas were delineated for each well: a 100 m proximity zone and three time-related (2-year, 5-year and 25-year) capture zones generated through a groundwater model. The wells

are located in an area of low/medium intrinsic vulnerability, which results in vulnerability scores of 2 and 4 in WHPA-D and WHPA-C, 6 in WHPA-B, and a vulnerability score of 10 within the 100-metre area around the wells.

The water quality threats assessment shows that 9 activities on 3 properties may be significant threats within WHPA-A. An Issues-based threats analysis was also completed through a review of water quality data collected from the municipal wells. No issue-based threats were identified within the municipal groundwater system.

### ***Oxford South, Oxford County***

The Norwich and Otterville–Springford water systems operated as independent systems until November, 2013, when a transmission main connecting Norwich to Otterville and Springford was commissioned forming the Oxford South Water System.

The Norwich area includes three wells; the serviced population in Norwich approximately 3,195. Two wells (Well 2 and Well 5) are located at the water works facility in the centre of town; one well (Well 4) is located to the east of the town. All three wells are completed in the bedrock aquifer.

The wells are located in an area of low intrinsic vulnerability, which results in vulnerability scores of 2 in WHPA-C and –WHPA-D and scores of 6 and 10 in WHPA-B and WHPA-A, respectively.. Adjustments were made to the vulnerability mapping to account for potential transport pathways (concentrations of private wells and sewage disposal systems located adjacent to Highway 59 north of the Town and in the village of Burgessville).

The water quality threats assessment shows that 15 activities on 9 properties may be significant threats within WHPA-A and WHPA-C. An Issues-based threats analysis was also completed through a review of water quality data collected from the municipal wells. No issue-based threats were identified within the Norwich.

The Otterville-Springford area includes two wells (Well 3 and Well 4) to the east of the village of Otterville and two wells (Well 4 and Well 5) located on the west edge of the village of Springford. The serviced population of Otterville and Springford is approximately 1,580. The Otterville wells are completed in the shallow overburden aquifer system with high intrinsic vulnerability. As a result, the vulnerability scores are 10 in WHPA-A and B, 8 in WHPA-C and 6 in WHPA-D. The Springford wells are completed in the intermediate overburden aquifer system with low intrinsic vulnerability, which results in 6, 4 and 2 vulnerability scores in most of the wellhead protection areas, and a vulnerability score of 10 within the 100-metre area around the wells.

The water quality threats assessment shows that 88 activities on 25 properties may be significant threats within WHPA-A, WHPA-B, WHPA-C and the ICA in Otterville, and 7 activities on 6 properties may be significant threats within WHPA-A in Springford. An Issues-based threats analysis was also completed through a review of water quality data collected from the municipal wells. A nitrate Issue-based threat was identified within the Otterville WHPAs. No Issue-based threats were identified within the Springford WHPAs.

### ***Tillsonburg, Oxford County***

The Tillsonburg water supply system includes 10 wells (Wells 1A, 2, 4, 5, 6A, 7A, 9, 10, 11 and 12) that service a population of approximately 16,340 and one additional planned well (well 3). The wells are completed in the overburden aquifer system.

The aquifer supplying the group of wells located to the southeast of the Town (1A, 2, 9, 10, 11 and 12) is mainly unconfined. The aquifer supplying the group of wells to the north (3, 4, 5, 6A and 7A) is mainly semi-confined. For the group of wells to the southeast, vulnerability scoring indicates the following: scores of 10 to 8 in WHPA-B; 8 to 6 in WHPA-C; 4 to 2 in WHPA-D. For the group of wells to the north, vulnerability scoring indicates the following: scores of 6 to 10 in WHPA-B; 2 to 8 in WHPA-C; 2 to 4 in WHPA-D. The aquifer vulnerability within a portion of the WHPA in the north along Plank Line was increased to account for possible transport pathways (concentration of private wells and private sewage systems).

Wells 1A, 2, 4, 5, 7A, 9 and 10 have been classified as groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GUDI). Wells 4, 5 and 7A had WHPA-E's delineated in addition to the WHPA-A to D. The WHPA-E for wells 4 and 5 has a vulnerability score of 6.3. The WHPA-E for well 7A has a vulnerability score of 7.2.

The water quality threats assessment shows that 89 activities on 38 properties may be significant threats in Oxford County within WHPA-A, B, C and the ICA, and 32 activities on 20 properties may be significant threats in Norfolk County within WHPA-A, B and C. An Issues-based threats analysis was also completed through a review of water quality data collected from the municipal wells. The Issue Contributing Area for the Nitrate Issue for the Northern well fields is delineated as the area within the wellhead protection areas that is currently contributing water to the wells (using existing pumping rates), and the enumerated threats are included in the totals above.

#### ***Delhi-Courtland, Norfolk County***

Norfolk County provides municipal drinking water to approximately 6,262 users in the communities of Delhi and Courtland via a drinking water system that distributes treated water from four groundwater supply wells (Wells 1, 2, 3a, & 3b) (Norfolk County, 2017). Wells 1 and 2 have a planned pumping capacity of 2,290 m<sup>3</sup>/day. They are 39 metres deep and pump from an extensive unconfined aquifer consisting of glaciolacustrine sands and gravels. Wells 3a and 3b, each with a pumping capacity of 1,145 m<sup>3</sup>/day, were drilled in 2016 to provide increased capacity to the Delhi system. These wells are 39 metres deep and pump from the same unconfined aquifer as Wells 1 and 2, and were brought online in 2020. Intrinsic vulnerability in the wellhead protection area, assessed using the Surface to Aquifer Advection Time (SAAT) methodology, is high; vulnerability scoring is 10 in the WHPA-A and B and 8 in the WHPA-C.

Even though the Delhi well 1 is identified as groundwater under the influence of surface water (GUDI), there is no evidence of a connection to or interaction with a surface water body that would decrease the time of travel of water to the well; therefore, no WHPA-E was delineated for this well.

The water quality threats assessment shows that 74 activities on 13 properties may be significant threats within WHPA-A and B. An Issues-based threats analysis was also completed through a review of water quality data collected from the municipal wells. No issue-based threats were identified within the municipal groundwater system. No significant conditions based threats have been identified for the Delhi sources.

#### ***Simcoe, Norfolk County***

Norfolk County provides municipal drinking water to approximately 15,040 users in the community of Simcoe from three separate overburden wellfields (Norfolk County, 2017).

The Cedar Street wellfield consists of five wells (Cedar 1A, 2A, 3, 4 and 5) and an infiltration gallery. The wellfield is located along the banks of Kent Creek. The Cedar Street wells are groundwater under the influence of surface water (GUDI) and a WHPA-E was delineated in addition to WHPAs A through D. The WHPAs were mapped as having a high intrinsic vulnerability and the vulnerability scores are as follows; 10 in WHPA-A and B and 8 in the WHPA-C. The WHPA-E has a vulnerability score of 6.3.

The Northwest Wellfield consists of two wells (Northwest 2 and 3) in proximity to Patterson Creek and former aggregate producing operation, now ponds. Since the Northwest Wellfield wells are also GUDI, a WHPA-E was delineated in addition to WHPAs A through D. The intrinsic vulnerability in the WHPAs ranges from high to low, with a vulnerability score of 10 in WHPA-A, 8-10 in the WHPA-B and scores varying from 2 to 8 in the WHPA-C. The WHPA-E has a vulnerability score of 6.3.

The Chapel Street Wellfield consists of a single well located within the community of Simcoe. Vulnerability in the wellhead protection area is high-moderate, with vulnerability scores between 8 and 10 in WHPA-B and between 6 and 8 in WHPA-C.

The Simcoe water quality threats assessment resulted in 11 activities on 4 properties that may be significant threats within the Northwest Wellfield WHPAs. A total of 225 activities located on 68 properties were identified as potential significant threats within the Cedar Street WHPAs, and 31 activities on 21 properties were identified within the Chapel Street WHPAs. Thirty one activities for fourteen properties were identified within Chapel and Cedar Street WHPAs combined.

An Issues-based threats analysis was also completed through a review of water quality data collected from the municipal wells. Nitrate was identified as an Issue for the Simcoe Water Supply. Nitrate Issue Contributing Areas for the Cedar Street and Chapel Street wellfields were mapped using a similar method to delineating WHPAs, but using existing pumping rates within the Tier 3 groundwater flow model instead of projected future rates. A threats enumeration identified 53 potential nitrate-related threats within the two ICAs. No conditions were identified at the time of this report.

### ***Waterford, Norfolk County***

The municipal water supply for Waterford consists of two shallow groundwater wells (Thompson Road Wells 3 and 4) that serve approximately 3,315 users (Norfolk County, 2017). The primary aquifer supplying the Waterford wells consists of local unconfined gravel and sand deposits with a thickness ranging from 4 to 8 metres. The Waterford wells are classified as GUDI and a WHPA-E has been delineated in addition to WHPAs A through D. The municipal supply aquifer in the Waterford area has a high intrinsic vulnerability; vulnerability scores are 10 in WHPA-A and B and 8 in WHPA-C. The WHPA-E has a vulnerability score of 5.6. The water quality threats assessment within the Waterford WHPAs resulted in 15 activities on 6 properties may be significant threats. No Issues or significant condition-based threats were identified.

### ***Port Dover, Norfolk County***

The Port Dover water treatment plant serves a population of about 7,089 users in the community of Port Dover and through the municipal bulk water depot (Norfolk County, 2017). The intake is located approximately 457 metres off-shore at a depth of 2.9 metres.

An Intake Protection Zone 1 (IPZ-1) has been delineated as a radius of 1,000 metres centred on the crib of the intake with a setback equal to the greater of 120 metres or the Conservation Authority Regulation Limit where the circle intersected land. The vulnerability score for the IPZ-1 is 6.0. An IPZ-2 was delineated based on a travel time to the intake of two hours. The vulnerability score for the IPZ-2 is 5.4. No activities have been identified as significant threats. An Issues-based threats analysis was also completed through a review of water quality data, and no Issues were identified.

### ***Port Rowan, Norfolk County***

The Port Rowan water treatment plant serves a population of approximately 2,312 people in the towns of Port Rowan and St. Williams (Norfolk County, 2017). The intake is located approximately 365 metres off-shore at a depth of 0.9 metres in the Long Point inner Bay.

An Intake Protection Zone 1 (IPZ-1) has been delineated as a radius of 1,000 metres centred on the crib of the intake with a setback equal to the greater of 120 metres or the Conservation Authority Regulation Limit where the circle intersected land. An IPZ-2 was delineated based on a travel time to the intake of two hours. Because the IPZ-2 is totally contained within the IPZ-1, there is no IPZ-2 for the Port Rowan intake. The vulnerability score for the IPZ-1 is 7.0. No activities have been identified as significant threats. An Issues-based threats analysis was also completed through a review of water quality data, and no Issues were identified.

### ***Nanticoke, Haldimand County***

The Nanticoke Water Supply System is a municipal drinking water system serving approximately 10,000 people in the towns of Hagersville, Jarvis, Townsend, Mississaugas of the New Credit Reserve, and the Lake Erie Industrial Park. Two in-lake intake cribs are located approximately 500 and 520 metres offshore at a depth of approximately 6.3 metres. Water flows via gravity to the power generation facility forebay. A channel located in the west bank of the forebay connects to the industrial pumping station (IPS) wet well and the submersible low lift pumps for the water treatment plant.

The Intake Protection Zone 1 (IPZ-1) was delineated as a circle with a 1000 m radius centred on each of the intake cribs. A 120 metre setback was included where the IPZ-1 intersected with land. The resulting IPZ-1 was given a vulnerability score of 5.0. An IPZ-1 was also delineated around the industrial pumping station forebay with a 120 metre setback adjusted for local drainage characteristics. The IPZ-1 was given a vulnerability score of 10. An IPZ-2 was delineated for the in-lake intakes using a two-hour travel time. The delineated area includes both in-water and on-shore areas. The vulnerability of IPZ-2 was found to be low, and was given a score of 4.0. An IPZ-2 was also delineated for the industrial pumping station based on assumptions of the forebay hydraulics and using the general extent of the power generation facility forebay with a setback of 120 metres. The vulnerability of the IPZ-2 for the industrial pumping station is high and has been given a score of 9.0.

The water quality threats assessment shows that 4 activities on 2 properties may be significant threats in the IPZ-1 and IPZ-2 for the industrial pumping station. Elevated sediment concentrations of chromium (total), copper, nickel and zinc in the IPZ-1 for the industrial pumping station are also considered a significant drinking water threat condition. An Issues-based threats analysis was also completed through a review of water quality data, and no Issues were identified.

### ***Richmond, Elgin County***



The Richmond water supply is a municipal drinking water system serving approximately 50 residences in the village of Richmond. The system is groundwater-based and consists of three pumping wells: one deep bedrock well used for backup supply; and two shallow wells screened in an unconfined, overburden aquifer. The overburden wells are classified as GUDI without effective in-situ filtration.

The Richmond WHPAs were delineated using the Long Point Tier 3 groundwater flow model.

Intrinsic vulnerability in WHPA-A to C is medium. WHPA-A has a vulnerability score of 10, WHPA-B has a vulnerability score of 8, and WHPA-C has a vulnerability score of 6. Intrinsic vulnerability is low in WHPA-D with vulnerability scores ranging from 2 to 4.

A water quality threats assessment within the Richmond WHPAs resulted in 8 activities located on 3 properties within the WHPA-A which may be significant threats. Nitrate was identified as an Issue for the overburden wells, and in ICA was mapped to align with WHPAs A and B. The Township has implemented a monthly nitrate sampling program for the overburden municipal wells and is developing annual nitrate monitoring reports.

**Table 13-1: Summary Enumeration of Significant Water Quality Threats in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area**

	<i>Dereham</i>	<i>Norwich</i>	<i>Otterville</i>	<i>Springford</i>	<i>Tillsonburg</i>	<i>Delhi</i>	<i>Simcoe</i>	<i>Waterford</i>	<i>Port Dover</i>	<i>Port Rowan</i>	<i>Nanticoke</i>	<i>Richmond</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Waste disposal site</b>		1				1	17						19
<b>System that collect, stores, transmits, treats or disposes of sewage</b>	2	2	22	5	18	8	66	6			3	4	136
<b>Application of agricultural source material (ASM)</b>	1	2	18	1	38	7	29	2				1	99
<b>Storage of ASM</b>						1	6						7
<b>Management of ASM</b>			9										9
<b>Application of non-agricultural source material (NASM)</b>												1	1
<b>Handling &amp; storage of NASM</b>													0
<b>Application of commercial fertilizer</b>	3		18		31		35					1	87

	<i>Dereham</i>	<i>Norwich</i>	<i>Otterville</i>	<i>Springford</i>	<i>Tillsonburg</i>	<i>Delhi</i>	<i>Simcoe</i>	<i>Waterford</i>	<i>Port Dover</i>	<i>Port Rowan</i>	<i>Nanticoke</i>	<i>Richmond</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Handling and storage of commercial fertilizer</i>			9		1	3	10						23
<i>Application of pesticide to land</i>	1	2	4	1	18	5	9					1	41
<i>Handling and storage of pesticide</i>		1	2		1	3	6						13
<i>Application of road salt</i>													0
<i>Handling and storage of road salt</i>													0
<i>Storage of snow</i>													0
<i>Handling and storage of fuel</i>	2	1	3		6	8	31				1		52
<i>Handling and storage of a DNAPL</i>		5	1		8		66	2					82
<i>Handling and storage of an organic solvent</i>		1					23						25
<i>Management of runoff that contains aircraft de-icing chemicals</i>													
<i>Livestock grazing, pasturing, farm-animal yard</i>			2			2		2					6
<i>The establishment and operation of a liquid hydrocarbon pipeline</i>													0
<i>Condition due to past activity</i>											1		1
<i>Total # activities and conditions that may be significant threats</i>	9	15	88	7	121	38	298	12	0	0	5	8	601



**Table 13-2: Summary Enumeration of Significant Water Quantity Threats in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area**

Threat Activity Water Quantity Vulnerable Area	19. An activity that takes water from an aquifer or a surface water body without returning the water taken to the same aquifer or surface water	20. An activity that reduces the recharge of an aquifer.
Long Point WHPA-Q-A	9	0.14 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total</b>	9	0.14 km <sup>2</sup>

### ***Effects of Climate Change on Assessment Report Conclusions***

Climate change could affect the assessment report conclusions with respect to the groundwater and creek-sourced drinking water supplies in the Long Point Region. The Long Point Region Water Budget and Local Area Risk Assessment (Tier 3 study) identified a significant water quantity risk for the Simcoe water supply system during all groundwater risk scenarios (see Section 10 for more detail).

The location and shallow, 0.9 metre depth of the Port Rowan water supply intake make it more vulnerable to declining Lake Erie levels than other Lake Erie intakes. The Port Dover water supply intake, at a depth of 2.9 metres is somewhat less vulnerable to declining Lake Erie levels. The Nanticoke water supply intakes, at a depth of 6.5 metres are less vulnerable to declining Lake Erie levels than other intakes along Lake Erie. Increasing nutrient loads and water temperatures, combined with shallower Lake Erie depths, have the potential to increase the occurrence of taste and odour problems, which are currently noted to be of concern, particularly for the Port Rowan and Port Dover water supplies.

### ***Next Steps***

The results of the technical studies were used to develop policies to protect sources of municipal drinking water. Policies were developed by municipalities, conservation authorities, property and business owners, farmers, industry, health officials, community groups and others working together to develop a fair, practical and implementable Source Protection Plan.

Public input and consultation play a significant role throughout the process. A formal public consultation will be held for the Source Protection Plan prior to finalization and submission to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks at the beginning of 2020.

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## 15.0 MAP CITATIONS AND REFERENCES

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Map #	Map Title	Reference
Map 2-3	Physiography of Long Point Watershed Area	Physiography of Southern Ontario Geological Survey dataset MRD228, Chapman, L.J. and Putnam, D.F. 2007. Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Copyright © Queen's Printer, 2010.
Map 2-4	Hummocky Topography	Various Authors, 1967-1993, Quaternary and Pleistocene Geology, Southern Ontario, Ontario Geological Survey. Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Copyright © Queen's Printer, 2003.
Map 2-7:	Bedrock Geology	Paleozoic Geology of Southern Ontario, Ontario Geological Survey dataset MRD219, Armstrong, D.K., Dodge, J.E.P., 2007. Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Copyright © Queen's Printer, 2010.
Map 2-8:	Quaternary (Surficial) Geology	Various Authors, 1967-1993, Quaternary and Pleistocene Geology, Southern Ontario, Ontario Geological Survey. Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Copyright © Queen's Printer, 2010.
Map 2-9:	Overburden Thickness	Waterloo Hydrogeologic Inc. May 2003. Norfolk Municipal Groundwater Study.
Map 2-10:	Water Table Surface	Waterloo Hydrogeologic Inc. May 2003. Norfolk Municipal Groundwater Study.
Map 2-11:	Bedrock Potentiometric Surface	Waterloo Hydrogeologic Inc. May 2003. Norfolk Municipal Groundwater Study.
Map 2-20	Permits To Take Water	Mapping based partially on data contained within Permits to Take Water issued by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

**Appendix A**

**Public Consultation Comments**

**Draft Updated Long Point Region Assessment Report  
Summary of Public Comments and How Comments were Addressed**

No comments were received during the September 23 to October 27, 2019 public consultation period for the draft Updated Long Point Region Assessment Report.

Detailed public consultation comments and how they were addressed for previous iterations of the Long Point Region Assessment Report are available upon request.

**Appendix B**

**Requests for Approval of  
Alternative Approaches**

Ministry of  
the Environment

Source Protection Programs  
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Log: ENV1174IT-2010-191

August 9, 2010

Mr. Martin Keller.  
Source Protection Program Manager  
Grand River Conservation Authority  
400 Clyde Road  
Cambridge ON N1R 5W6

Dear Mr. Keller:

I am responding to your July 15, 2010 e-mail regarding your request to use alternate methods under Rule 15.1 of the Director's Technical Rules (Rules) for the completion of the assessment report under the *Clean Water Act* (CWA) for the Long Point Region source protection area.

Variation from Rule 38(1)(a) – Vulnerability Mapping

As set out in your correspondence, your proposal is to use an alternative method to complete vulnerability mapping in the Dereham Centre and Springford-Otterville Wellhead Protection Areas using the AVI method with score thresholds of <24, 24-80, and >80 to identify areas of high, medium and low vulnerability. Technical Rule 38(1)(a) requires that a threshold of <30 be used to identify areas of high vulnerability when using the AVI method.

As stated in your e-mail, the Wellhead Protection Areas were completed in advance of the CWA through the MOE-funded Municipal Groundwater Protection Studies.

We accept your opinion, subject to recalculation and review, that the different threshold will not change the vulnerability mapping within the WHPAs with an anticipated correction to the appropriate methodology threshold of 30. It is likely, however, that areas of high groundwater vulnerability across the region may be reduced marginally to medium vulnerability with the change from the threshold of 24 to 30. This affect must be accurately and correctly documented in both the current and updated Assessment Reports. We acknowledge that work is currently underway to update the vulnerability with the correct threshold and that this will be provided in an amended Assessment Report.

### Variation from Rule 17 – Impervious Areas

As set out in your correspondence, your proposal is to use an alternative method to calculate the impervious surface area with respect to where road salt can be applied, using the area of IPZ-1 rather than a 1 km by 1 km grid, and then dividing the area of paved surfaces by the total area of IPZ-1.

We concur with your opinion that the use of this proposed alternative method will not impact the implementation of the Rule, as the area of IPZ-1 is less than 1 km<sup>2</sup>. Given the small size of IPZ-1, this approach is considered equivalent to the method currently required by Rule 17.

### Variation from Rules 47(5) and 65 – Setbacks

As set out in your correspondence, your proposal is to use an alternative method to determine the setback on land for the Waterford WHPA-E (delineated around a number of small surface water ponds), which would reduce the setback to 120 m or less to include only the areas that are considered to drain toward the ponds from the north, east and south sides.

We concur with your opinion that the complexity of the Regulation Limit, due to the relatively flat topography and the direction of drainage around the ponds, suggests that a setback of 120 m or less is more appropriate. As only land is hydraulically connected to the wellfield will be included this approach is considered equivalent to the method required by the Rules.

### Variation from Rule 17 – Impervious Areas

As set out in your correspondence, your proposal is to use an alternative methodology to generate the grid to be used to estimate the Percentage of Impervious Surface Area, with a node of the grid centred on the centroid of the vulnerable area (WHPA/IPZ) instead of centring the node on the source protection area as required by Rule 17.

We concur with your opinion that the use of this proposed alternative grid centroid will not impact the implementation of the Rule, other than to centre the calculations on the areas of particular interest. Therefore, this approach is equivalent to the method currently required by Rule 17.

In accordance with my authority under Rule 15.1, I hereby provide Director's approval for the use of these alternate methods for the Long Point Region source protection area.

Your rationale for the use of the alternative methods and how they are being applied must be included in your assessment report.



We thank you for your efforts in completing the technical studies in support of the assessment report under the CWA. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our office.

Sincerely,



Ian Smith, Director  
Source Protection Programs Branch  
Ministry of the Environment

cc: Craig Ashbaugh, Chair, Source Protection Committee  
Heather Malcolmson, Manager, Source Protection Planning  
Keith Willson, Manager, Source Protection Approvals  
Kate Turner, Liaison Officer, Source Protection Implementation  
Melanie Ward, Source Protection Approvals

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ENV1174IT-2011-26

April 1, 2011

Mr. Martin Keller  
Source Protection Program Manager  
Grand River Conservation Authority  
400 Clyde Road, Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6

Dear Mr. Keller:

Thank you for your email request of March 9, 2011 to use an alternate method under sub-Rule 15(1) of the Director's Technical Rules (Rules) for the completion of assessment reports under the Clean Water Act (CWA) for specific drinking water systems in the Grand River Source Protection Area and the Long Point Region Source Protection Area.

As set out in your correspondence, your proposal is to use information on land cover classification from the Southern Ontario Land Resource Information System (SOLRIS) to calculate the percent impervious surfaces for specific drinking water systems in the two source protection area. The alternative method is as follows:

- Provided land use information, including road and highway transportation routes, as continuous 15x15 metre grid cells across the entire Source Protection Area.
- All the cells that represent highways and other impervious surfaces used for vehicular traffic were re-coded with a cell value of 1 and all other land cover classifications were given a value of 0, to identify impervious surface areas.
- For each 15x15 metre cell, the total number of neighbouring grid cells coded as impervious, within a 1x1 kilometre search area, was calculated.
- This total was then converted into the percentage of impervious surface by land area, using the area of each cell (225 sq. m) and the area of the moving window (1 sq. km).
- This provides a 1x1 kilometre moving window calculation of percent impervious surface, represented in 15x15 metre spatial increments.
- This dataset was calculated for the entire Source Protection Area, but was clipped to show those results only in the Wellhead Protection Areas and Intake Protection Zones.

- The analysis is a more representative analysis of road density and is equivalent or better than the requirements of the Technical Rules.

In our opinion the use of this alternative method complies with Rule 15.1 by providing a method that is "equivalent to or better than the approach or method prescribed in the rules". The method is a refinement of the scale used to identify impervious areas related to road salt applications within the WHPAs and IPZs, and we agree that it is more representative of the road density in *1x1 kilometre* grid for a specific location than the method described in the Technical Rules 16 (11) and 17.

In accordance with my authority under sub-Rule 15(1), I hereby provide Director's approval for the use of this alternate method for the following:

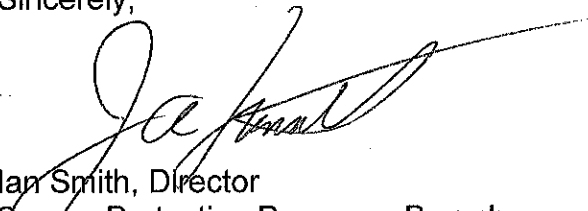
- Within the Grand River Source Protection Area: the IPZ-3s for all surface water systems except those in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, the vulnerable areas for Brant County systems (Airport, Mount Pleasant, Paris, and St. George Well Supplies, and the Brantford (Holmedale) Water Treatment Plant), and the vulnerable areas for the Bright, Drumbo, Milverton, Dundalk, Elora, Fergus, and Arthur groundwater systems.
- Within the Long Point Region Source Protection Area: the: vulnerable areas associated with the Port Rowan, Port Dover, Delhi, and Nanticoke surface water systems.

Your rationale for the use of an alternative method, the methodology itself, and how it is being applied must be included in your assessment report.

I thank you for your efforts in completing the technical studies in support of the assessment report under the CWA. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our office.

We understand that work using this approach will be completed in time for the submission of an updated or amended assessment report.

Sincerely,



Ian Smith, Director  
Source Protection Programs Branch  
Ministry of the Environment

cc: Heather Malcolmson, Manager, Source Protection Planning  
Keith Willson, Manager, Source Protection Approvals  
Melanie Ward, Group Leader, Source Protection Approvals  
Katie Fairman, Supervisor, Source Protection Implementation  
Kate Turner, Liaison Officer, Lake Erie Source Protection Committee