

The Corporation of the TOWN OF MILTON

Report to: Mayor G. A. Krantz and Members of Council

From: E. Iovio, M.C.I.P., R.P.P., Director of Planning & Development

Date: July 16, 2007

Report No. PD-052-07

Subject: Water Supply Strategy – Guelph Arkell Class Environmental Assessment (EA)

RECOMMENDATION: THAT Report PD-052-07 be received for information.

REPORT

Background

Attached, is a copy of a report produced by the City of Guelph to update their Council on the Arkell Class EA. At the request of City of Guelph staff, a meeting was held with Councillor Lee, staff from the Region of Halton and Milton. The City staff informed that, after two years of deliberation, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) refused the two requests received to bump up the project. The Ministry approved the EA and imposed several conditions. City staff convened meeting to inform the Region and Town that, as a condition of approval, the Minister requires the City to implement a ground water monitoring program which includes an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP). This plan is designed to monitor the impacts of the water takings on the Blue Springs Creek and ensure that any impacts are addressed in a timely way, which can include the immediate ceasing of pumping. The attached report outlines what is involved in the AMP. The Region of Halton Hydrologist sits on the technical committee, formed to guide the AMP, and will be receiving information on a quarterly basis. The AMP will provide for one year of baseline monitoring before any significant pumping will be allowed to occur. Also, the MOE will only allow Guelph to pump a maximum of 80% of the allowable limit of their permit for the first three years.

In order to monitor the impacts, the City will be seeking the permission of selected landowners, in the area of Blue Springs Creek, to install monitoring devices. The data will be collected several times per year for up to three years. The homeowners will be contacted within the next few weeks.



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In addition to the discussions regarding the AMP, Councillor Lee raised the concern about maintaining the static level of the surrounding private wells. City staff indicated that monitoring of these wells is also a condition of the permit and outlined a procedure that is in place to resolve private complaints. They indicated that if the complaints cannot be resolved at the staff level, the homeowners can appeal to the Well Interference Committee. This committee has three Councillors from the City of Guelph, one from the Township of Puslinch and one from the Town of Milton. This committee has the authority to impose remediation measures.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan

Communications with the City of Guelph on this project will further the goal of providing for "a Safe, Liveable and Healthy community" by ensuring that the groundwater is protected for the benefit of the environment and Milton residents.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact as a result of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Iovio', written over a horizontal line.

E. Iovio, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Director of Planning & Development

If you have any questions on the content of this report: Mel Iovio, 905 878-7252

Attachments: Appendix "A" - Notice to Residents of Monitoring Study
Appendix "B" - Report dated May 31, 2007 to Mayor and Members of
Guelph City Council

CAO Approval: _____



Guelph

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
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Appendix A to Report PD-052-07

May, 2007

Arkell Spring Grounds Blue Springs Creek Aquatic Monitoring Study

STATUS OF THE ARKELL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The City of Guelph carried out a Class Environmental Assessment for an increase in ground water taking from the Arkell Spring Grounds. This project is key to the continued provision of water to the City of Guelph. In September 2006, the Minister of the Environment (MOE) decided the project could proceed, with conditions.

AQUATIC MONITORING STUDY:

The MOE conditions require the City to establish an aquatic monitoring study for Blue Springs Creek to ensure that the increased water taking does not adversely impact the creek. The MOE directed the City to develop the study in consultation with the MOE, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Grand River Conservation Authority.

The study area is shown on the attached map and includes the lower reaches of Blue Springs Creek and a southern tributary. Fisheries, surface water and shallow groundwater monitoring activities will commence during the spring of 2007 and are expected to continue for up to three years. Fisheries and surface water surveys will be done several times throughout the year at selected locations on Blue Springs Creek from the Eramosa River upstream to 5th Line. Monitoring of recently-installed groundwater wells will be ongoing.

REQUEST FOR ACCESS:

The City is seeking permission from landowners in the area to access individual properties at selected locations within the study area to carry out the aquatic monitoring study. Candidate monitoring locations are shown on the study area map (see reverse). Access will be required initially for the installation of flow and temperature monitoring equipment and hand-driven groundwater piezometers in the creek. Access is also required for biologists to survey the creek and to collect data from the monitoring equipment several times per year for up to three years.

Gartner Lee Limited, a Guelph-based environmental consulting firm, has been retained by the City to undertake the study. Their representatives will be contacting property owners in the study area during the next several months to further explain the monitoring study, to answer questions and to request access to properties within the study area to complete the aquatic monitoring study. Your cooperation is appreciated as this is an important project for providing water to the City of Guelph and it is necessary that the monitoring be started in the spring.

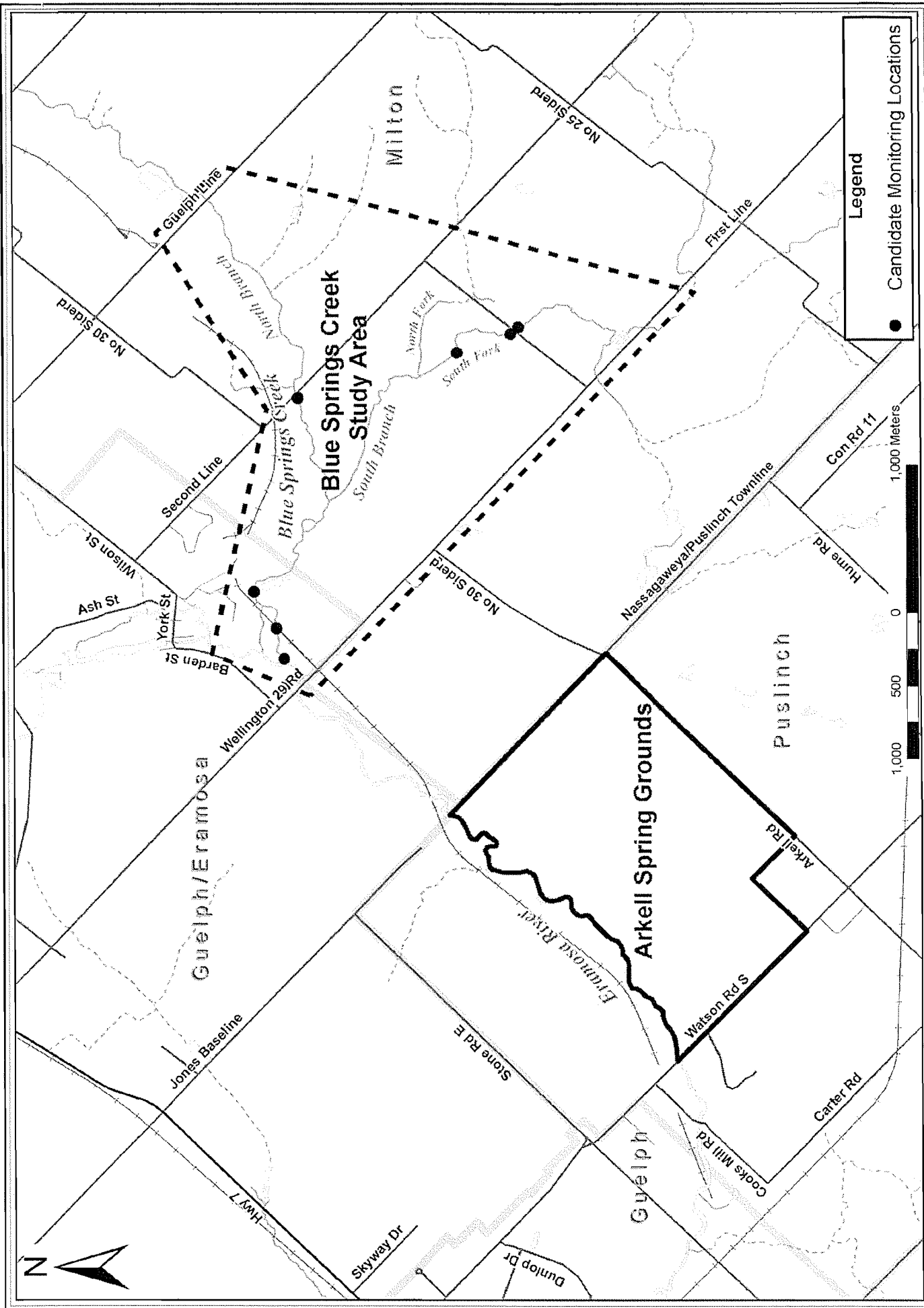
Please direct any comments or questions regarding this Study to the following:

Dave Belanger
Water Supply Program Manager
Phone: 519-837-5627, Ext. 251
E-mail: Dave.Belanger@guelph.ca

Peter Busatto
Manager of Waterworks
Phone: 519-837-5627, Ext. 234
E-mail: Peter.Busatto@guelph.ca

Note: For contact outside regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) please contact the After Hours Answering Service at 519-658-8003.

(See Study Area Map on Reverse Side)



Legend

- Candidate Monitoring Locations





City of Guelph

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Information Report

TO: Mayor and Members of Guelph City Council

DATE: May 31, 2007

SUBJECT: Water Supply Strategy - Arkell Class Environmental Assessment

BACKGROUND:

Staff have organized a "Growth Management Workshop" for Council on June 19, 2007. The purpose of the Workshop is to better link all growth-related projects and ongoing Master Plans for Council's benefit. This report, and the two accompanying reports entitled Guelph Puslinch Groundwater Protection Study and Clean Water Act Legislation (Bill 43) and Source Protection Projects (included in this Information Package), are prepared for Council as "briefing" documents in advance of that Workshop.

In June 2004, the project file for the Arkell Class Environmental Assessment (EA) was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) for review of four Environmental Assessment Part II Order requests. After two years of discussions between the City and the MOE, the Minister of the Environment denied the Part II Order requests and imposed several conditions on the approval of the Class Environmental Assessment. Both the City and the MOE have the same interests, i.e. to ensure that the City has a sustainable water taking at Arkell. The conditions that have been applied to this project include a groundwater monitoring program and the development of an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) that will ensure that any potential impacts from the water taking are identified and addressed in a timely way.

The AMP is a monitoring program that is intended to identify potential linkages between groundwater takings at Arkell and changes in surface water conditions in Blue Springs Creek. The Class EA work predicted that there would be minimal/negligible impacts to Blue Springs Creek. The AMP is expected to confirm this. If linkages and impacts are identified, the City will work with the MOE to ensure that the impacts are mitigated.

REPORT:

In September 2006 the Minister of the Environment issued her decision on four Part II Order appeals directed at the Arkell Class Environmental Assessment for additional water taking. While the Minister denied the Part II Order appeals, she identified conditions that the City must comply with before the City can apply for a Permit To Take Water to implement the project.

The Conditions of Approval include two sets of conditions. Part A addresses additional groundwater monitoring for the Arkell project and the Eastview Landfill site. Part B conditions require the City to develop an Adaptive Management Plan and associated monitoring program to ensure that there are no ecological impacts to Blue Springs Creek. Part A conditions must be completed before the AMP, required under Part B, can be approved. The completion of both Parts A and B of the conditions must be approved by MOE before a Permit To Take Water will be issued by MOE.

City staff set up a multi-agency committee to address these two conditions. The Committee includes:

- ▶ City of Guelph, Environmental Services - Waterworks Division;
- ▶ Ministry of the Environment, West Central Region, surface water specialists;
- ▶ Ministry of Natural Resources, Guelph District, ecologist;
- ▶ Grand River Conservation Authority- hydrogeologists, surface water specialists and ecologists;
- ▶ Region of Halton & Town of Milton – hydrogeologist.

The City retained the assistance of technical consultants (Gartner Lee Limited and N. Woerns) and a facilitator (Lura Consulting) to provide the committee with the support needed to develop a technically sound plan and a process that would be acceptable to all parties.

The Committee met five times from September 2006 to April 2007. As a result, the following is the status of the conditions of approval of the Arkell Water Taking:

Part A – Hydrogeological Monitoring:

- A work plan was prepared and approved by the MOE in December 2006;
- Monitoring wells are in place and sampling/monitoring programs have begun as per the conditions and will continue for up to one year.

Part B – Adaptive Management Plan (AMP):

- A draft Adaptive Management Plan has been reviewed by the Committee. Additional comments will be forthcoming from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans;
- The City will meet with the MOE hydrogeologists in the near future to discuss details of the three-year Operational Testing Program;
- The draft AMP will be submitted to MOE when all agency comments have been received. The AMP will be retained by MOE until the Part A monitoring is completed (likely in the Fall of this year). When the Part A conditions have been completed, MOE will review the draft AMP for approval;
- Draft monitoring protocols have been developed and are being reviewed by key agencies. These protocols outline how the ecological monitoring will be done;
- A reporting structure is being developed to review the findings of the monitoring during the Operational Testing Program. The committee agencies will be involved as per their interests in reviewing monitoring results. Data & summaries will be prepared quarterly for the first year of operation. Summaries will be sent to the committee and the need for a meeting will be determined based on their interest;
- Landowner access will be required for a number of monitoring sites. The City has developed a flyer that provides landowners with an overview of the project and the need for access to monitoring sites (refer to Appendix "A" attached). City staff will ensure that other municipal Councilors and staff (Guelph-Eramosa, Puslinch, and Milton) are informed prior to the flyer being distributed. Flyer distribution in Halton Region will be coordinated

through the Regional representative (hydrogeologist) on the Committee. The flyer will be distributed to landowners and will be posted on the website (likely May/June). The agency Committee will be advised prior to the distribution of the flyer;

- Monitoring can start now where the City has access.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN:

Overall, the provision of new water services has the following links to the Corporate Strategic Plan directions:

- 1.5 Develop and implement a local growth management strategy to achieve a healthy community;
- 2.1 Ensure a sufficient supply of serviced employment lands;
- 3.2 Protect our rivers as a principal natural heritage feature of our City;
- 5.1 Develop strategies to sustain our natural and built infrastructure;
- 5.4 Promote and implement environmentally sustainable initiatives;
- 5.5 Evaluate and implement proven and leading-edge environmental technologies and programs; and
- 6.6 Ensure that all City initiatives are based on sound financial, social and environmental principals.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

In 2006, the Capital Budget for the project was increased to \$5,770,000 in recognition of the delays to the project, the additional MOE consultation and additional monitoring requirements. The additional issues raised by the MOE to date and the extended monitoring requirements through the three-year Operational Testing Program may require additional funding during the 2008 Capital budget process in order to complete the project.

DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION/CONCURRENCE: N/A

COMMUNICATIONS: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix "A" – proposed flyer to land owners

Prepared By:
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Water Supply Program Manager

Recommended By:
Janet L. Laird, Ph.D.
Director of Environmental Services

Approved for Presentation:
Member, Transitional Executive Team