Class Environmental Assessment to address Outfall Capacity Limitations at the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant

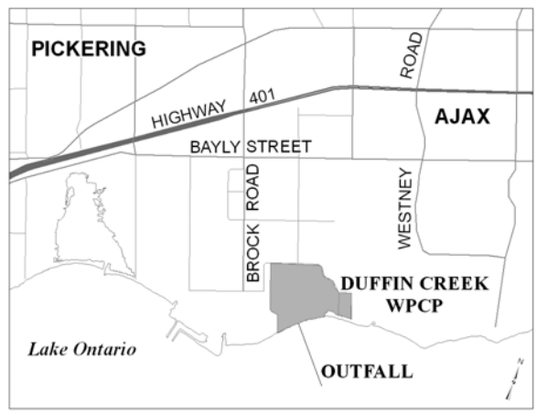
NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

In 2006 the Regional Municipalities of York and Durham completed a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment that identified the preferred strategy for expanding wastewater treatment capacity at the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) from a capacity of 420 million litres per day (MLD) to 630 MLD. Construction of the expansion is underway, with completion scheduled for 2011.

Treated effluent from the WPCP is discharged via an outfall that facilitates rapid assimilation of the treated effluent into Lake Ontario. An assessment of the existing outfall determined that it will reach its capacity at approximately 560 MLD, which will limit the operating capacity of the expanded WPCP. The Regions are working to resolve the outfall capacity limitations prior to WPCP flows reaching the lesser rate of 520 MLD.

The Study

York and Durham Regions are jointly initiating a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) to identify the preferred method of addressing the future capacity limitations of the existing outfall. The study will follow *Schedule C* of the *Municipal Class Environmental Assessment* process (as amended October 2007), and will satisfy the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Class EA will define the issues to be addressed, identify feasible alternatives, evaluate the technical, natural, social/cultural, and economic impacts of the alternatives, and recommend a solution. The Class EA process provides members of the public and agencies with opportunities for input and ensures that all comments are appropriately addressed and documented for the public record.



The Consultation Process

Public and agency consultation is a key component of the Class EA process and the submission of comments is encouraged at any time during the study. Comments may be submitted via the project website at www.durham.ca/OutfallEA or via email at info@outfallEA.com or by contacting either of the Regions' Project Managers directly at:

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As part of the consultation process, the Regions are compiling a Project Contact List of parties that are interested in receiving further information on the Class EA. Please submit your contact information if you wish to be added to the Project Contact List. Public Information Forums (PIFs) will also be held during the Class EA to present information and receive comment. Advance notice of these PIFs will be published in local newspapers, posted on the project website and issued to those parties on the Project Contact List. Key Class EA documents will also be posted to the project website, and reference copies will be available at the Central Branch of the Pickering Public Library and the Main Branch of the Ajax Public Library.

All correspondence will be maintained for reference throughout the project and will become part of the project record. Under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Environmental Assessment Act*, unless otherwise stated in the submission, any personal information such as name, address, telephone number and property location included in a submission will become part of the public record files for this project and will be released, if requested, to any person.