

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT  
DISCUSSION PAPER**

**LONG TERM WATER SUPPLY PROJECT - LAKE ONTARIO  
WATER SUPPLY VIA DURHAM WEST**

JANUARY, 1998

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*Consumers  
Utilities* 

**York**  
Region

INTER-  
REGIONAL  
CONSULTANTS  
GROUP

## 1.0 Objectives of this Discussion Paper

The Region of York is currently preparing a Terms of Reference (ToR) to guide an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed Lake Ontario Water Supply via a corridor known as Durham West. The ToR document will include a chapter on public consultation which will define the consultation to be carried out during the EA.

A main objective of public consultation is to obtain comments on local issues to assist in the generation and evaluation of alternatives.

The purpose of this discussion paper is to obtain public input on:

1. The consultation being carried out to develop the ToR document; and,
2. The consultation plan to be implemented during the EA.

You are encouraged to provide us with your specific comments on the proposed consultation plan for both the preparation of this Terms of Reference and the subsequent Environmental Assessment.

At the outset of this study, public comment will be sought on the principles to be used in guiding the public consultation. For example, the public will have the opportunity to:

1. Be consulted before key decisions are made;
2. Identify gaps and provide public opinion on key issues; and,
3. Comment on and review the analysis and consideration of alternatives.

Overall, every effort will be made throughout the study to hear, listen, identify, analyze, resolve, and document all issues and concerns raised.

Our initial thoughts with respect to public consultation, are discussed in Sections 3 and 4.

### What is a Terms of Reference?

The Environmental Assessment Act now requires that proponents of an undertaking prepare a ToR to define the scope of a proposed environmental assessment study. The ToR is to be prepared in consultation with people who have an interest and is intended to provide certainty to the proponent and all stakeholders that the EA will be prepared to an acceptable level of detail. This document is ultimately approved by the Minister of Environment prior to the commencement of the EA.

The ToR for this study will be prepared in accordance with subsection 6 (2) c) of the Environmental Assessment Act - "set out in detail the requirements for the preparation of the environmental assessment". Specifically, the ToR will outline the following:

1. A description and purpose of the undertaking;
2. A reasonable range of alternatives to be considered;
3. A description of the environment and potential effects;
4. A Consultation Plan;
5. An EA Work Plan that will identify the scope of the technical studies required to assess the impacts of the various alternatives;
6. Any other approvals required; and,
7. A proposed schedule.

During the preparation of the ToR, public comments will be elicited on all of these components. Once approved, all parties will understand the studies to be completed and the range of alternatives to be considered.

## **2.0 Background**

### **Growth and Demand**

Since 1986, York Region has experienced the highest growth in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and continues to be one of the fastest growing Regions in Canada. With a current population of approximately 600,000, York Region is expected to reach 1.1 million by 2021, and 1.2 million by 2031. Policies to direct this growth are outlined in the York Region Official Plan, which was approved in 1994.

### **Long Term Water Supply Master Plan**

To accommodate growth in the Region, and meet water supply projections, York Region undertook a Long Term Water Supply Master Plan to comprehensively examine water supply needs and solutions. The Master Plan was completed in July, 1997. It was undertaken using the principles of environmental assessment planning and the Master Plan provisions of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Water and Wastewater Projects.

The recommended strategy includes the following principal components:

1. Expansion of Water Supply from Metro Toronto
2. Implementation of Water-Use Efficiency Program
3. Construction of Lake Simcoe Water Treatment Facility
4. Implementation of a New Great Lakes Supply

In addition, the following two aspects are associated with the strategy which will complement the expansion of supplies:

1. A strategy for the continued use of groundwater
2. Changes and expansion to the systems for distribution of water within the Region's boundaries

In the Master Plan, it was concluded that obtaining the maximum quantity of water from Metro Toronto, implementing water-use efficiency programs and obtaining additional water from Lake Simcoe could only provide a short-term solution to York Region's water needs. Ultimately, a Great Lakes source would be required. The timing of this project is dependent on growth, but it is expected that this supply could be required as early as 2004.

The Master Plan recognized that the scale of a Great Lakes supply may vary due to a number of factors including the realization of additional supplies from Lake Simcoe which could feed the areas south of Georgina, the availability of groundwater resources in York Region, and the possibility of cooperation with Durham Region.

During the course of the Master Plan study, 14 new supply alternatives were examined. These options included Georgian Bay sources, Lake Ontario sources via Peel Region, Lake Ontario sources via Metro Toronto, and Lake Ontario sources via Durham Region.

A Lake Ontario source via Durham Region, with an intake in Pickering, was selected as the preferred

option. This option is referred to as Lake Ontario Supply via Durham West. This option was selected because it resulted in acceptable environmental impacts that could effectively be mitigated, was cost effective and provided potential benefits to Durham Region.

Considering the potential magnitude of this project and the inter-regional water supply issues involved, York Region considered it inappropriate to continue using the Class Environmental Assessment framework for planning this component of the Long Term Water Supply Strategy and, therefore, has initiated an Individual Environmental Assessment.

### **General Description of the Undertaking**

The following briefly describes the five components which are proposed to be included in the undertaking. Alternative locations within the Infrastructure Corridor Study Area and construction methods will be examined during the subsequent Environmental Assessment.

#### **1. Raw Water Intake**

A raw water intake will be required to draw water from Lake Ontario. This intake is proposed to be constructed into Lake Ontario in the vicinity of West Pickering.

#### **2. Raw Water Pumping Station**

A raw water pumping station will be required to pump the water from the Lake to a water treatment plant. The raw water pumping station will likely be located between Highway 401 and Lake Ontario.

#### **3. Transmission Water Mains**

Transmission water mains will convey water from the Raw Water Pumping Station to the Water Treatment Plant and reservoir.

Potential coordination with Durham Region's water infrastructure requirements, the utilization of a single main (approximately 2 m diameter) versus a twinned facility, and the potential for interim pumping stations will be examined during the subsequent Environmental Assessment.

#### **4. Water Treatment Plant**

A plant could be located as far north as Whitchurch-Stouffville. It could be located within Durham Region, particularly if it is found advantageous to service both York and Durham Regions from this undertaking.

#### **5. Water Storage Reservoir**

A water storage reservoir could either occupy the same site as the water treatment plant or a different site elsewhere in the Infrastructure Corridor Study Area.

### **3.0 Consultation During the Terms of Reference**

We envision a strong public consultation program during the development of the ToR as well as during the EA stage. The most effective public consultation programs are those responsive to the characteristics of the community and the needs of the project. The characteristics of the community address who should be part of the public consultation process and what is the spatial and social extent

of the study area.

The primary goal of public consultation during the formulation of the Terms of Reference is to receive comments and obtain input which will help develop the proposed scope of the subsequent EA and the proposed consultation plan for the EA. Using the methods set out below, the proponent proposes to seek out the views of stakeholders in meaningful ways which will allow the comments and views of the public to influence the scope and nature of the EA study.

The following outlines the methods that will be used to consult with the public during the preparation of the ToR.

#### **First Set of Public Information Centres**

The first set of Public Information Centres will be held in February 1998. Information Centres will be held in six locations (three in York Region and three in Durham Region). The purpose of this set of Information Centres is to:

- Introduce the Study;
- Identify the additional work that is proposed to complete the Terms of Reference;
- Present the Study Process and Schedule; and,
- Obtain comments on this information and identify issues and concerns relevant to the preparation of the Terms of Reference.

#### **Issues**

The types of issues which we will be eliciting comment on include:

- The Durham West Infrastructure Corridor Study Area.
- The criteria to be used to generate alternative routes and facility sites.
- The types of studies that should be undertaken during the course of the ToR to determine the scope of additional studies that will occur at the EA stage. These studies include:
  - Lakeshore modelling (to address water quality issues);
  - Geotechnical and Engineering Studies (to better define construction techniques);
  - Seismic investigations;
  - Consider radiation safety implications to the water supply given the proximity to the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station and identify what further studies; and
  - Environmental investigations (natural, social, economic and cultural conditions).
- The proposed Consultation Plan for the subsequent EA.

#### **Follow-up Activities**

Other consultation activities will be held as required, depending on the issues/concerns raised. These activities will be held in the Spring and Summer of 1998 (between the first and second sets of Public Information Centres). These activities may include:

#### Workshops

As necessary, workshops will be arranged to work through specific issues with the aid of a facilitator. Interested persons will be asked to identify any issues which they feel warrant follow-up activities at the first set of Public Information Centres.

A set of workshops would likely occur in the spring of 1998 following the first set of Public Information Centres. The timing and locations have not yet been determined, but will depend on the number of people interested in attending and where they live in the study area.

### Field Trips

If necessary, field trips will be arranged with individuals and interest groups during the course of the study to assist in data collection and clarification of issues and concerns.

If warranted, field trips to similar facilities as those being proposed will be undertaken. Locations will be determined during the course of the study.

### Informal Meetings/Kitchen Table Meetings

On projects of this type, requests are often made that the proponent attend and present information at meetings of interest groups or groups of neighbours. These informal meetings are beneficial to our understanding of issues at a neighbourhood level. The meeting will work well in providing additional information, addressing misinformation, and identifying issues to be considering. The location of these meetings will be dependent on the group and the issues.

### **Second Set of Public Information Centres**

A second set of Public Information Centres will be held in September 1998. Information Centres will be held in six locations (three in York Region and three in Durham Region). The purpose of this set of Information Centres is to:

- Present the Results from the First Public Information Centres;
- Present the Draft Terms of Reference; and,
- Obtain comments on this information and identify issues and concerns relevant to the preparation of the Terms of Reference.

### *Issues*

The types of issues which we will be eliciting comment on include:

- Constraints and opportunities within the Infrastructure Corridor Study Area.
- Criteria that will be used to generate a reasonable range of alternatives during the subsequent EA.
- The types of studies and evaluations proposed to be undertaken during the EA.
- The proposed consultation plan for the subsequent EA.

### **Presubmission Review of the Draft Terms of Reference**

A draft of the Terms of Reference will be available at the second set of Public Information Centres. At the same time a draft will be circulated to the Government Core Review Team. We are allowing 30 days for review and submission of comments. The Terms of Reference will then be finalized and submitted to the Minister of Environment for a decision on approval.

### **Brochure**

A brochure will be prepared prior to each Public Information Centre. The brochure will be sent to all people within the study area via Canada Post Ad Mail and all people on the project team mailing list.

## **Newspaper Advertisements**

Newspaper advertisements will be placed prior to each Public Information Centre. The advertisement will be placed in local newspapers and The Toronto Star.

## **Documentation**

It is important for people involved in public consultation programs to understand that they are heard and to receive responses to suggestions made and questions asked. In addition, it is important for decisions made by the project team and reasons for those decisions to be traceable. To achieve traceability, a record and documentation of comments and suggestions made by the public and responses provided by the project team will be compiled. Information sheets will be used and a record of public comments will be prepared.

## **4.0 Consultation During the Environmental Assessment**

The following outlines a proposed plan for Public Consultation Plan during the preparation of the Environmental Assessment. At this time we suggest that public consultation focus on achieving four objectives:

### **1. Development of Alternative Routes and Facility Sites**

The public will be asked to comment on the development of alternative routes and facility sites.

### **2. Application of Evaluation Criteria to Select a Preferred Alternative**

The public will also be asked to comment on and influence the application of criteria to evaluate and select a preferred route and facility sites. *What social, environmental and economic factors associated with each route/ alternative location are most important?*

### **3. Selection of a Preferred Alternative**

The evaluation criteria will be applied to allow the selection of a preferred alternative, including a specific pipeline route and facility sites. The public will be asked to comment on the analysis, evaluation and the rationale for the preferred alternative.

### **4. Mitigation of the Preferred Alternative**

This final step will address specific features of the preferred alternative that will require mitigation during minor (property-level) route adjustments, construction practices. The subjects to be addressed during this stage will include public comments on such issues as landowner communication and public liaison during construction, traffic management and safety plans.

Public consultation will occur in relation to each of the steps listed above and input will be sought on the evaluation criteria used to narrow the range of alternatives and project choices to a preferred alternative.

Within the environmental assessment study, public consultation will involve reviewing, commenting and providing input to the environmental assessment studies, the technical analysis and the ongoing comment/input to the public consultation process. The consultation plan encourages upfront, proactive consultation which will allow the comments and views of the public to help influence the study and its recommendations.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION METHODS

### *Public Information Centres*

It is proposed that three series of Information Centres will be held as part of the environmental assessment study. The Information Centres will coincide with:

1. The alternative route and facility siting stage;
2. The analysis and evaluation stage and;
3. The preliminary design of the preferred alternative.

Each Information Centre will be widely advertised to potentially affected stakeholders in the same manner as the ToR stage.

The Information Centres will allow the public to hear about the status of the proposal and exchange information. In addition, the Information Centres will allow the members of the project team to ask important questions of the public.

The Public Information Centres will be augmented by follow-up activities (workshop, field trips and informal/kitchen table meeting) similar to those described in Section 3. It is anticipated that these will occur following the first and second set of Public Information Centres.