
Glossary of Terms for the Alternatives to the Undertaking

Alternative Methods of Carrying out the Undertaking	Different ways of implementing the preferred Alternative To the Undertaking.
Alternatives To the Undertaking	Functionally different ways of approaching a problem or opportunity, from which a preferred Alternative is selected.
Discharge to Lake Ontario Alternative	One of the four Alternatives To the Undertaking examined in the UYSS EA. Under this alternative, all wastewater would be conveyed to an appropriate point in the existing York Durham Sewage System, through some combination of tunnel, pumping station(s) and forcemain(s).
Discharge to Lake Simcoe Alternative	One of the four Alternatives To the Undertaking examined in the UYSS EA. Under this alternative, wastewater from growth in East Gwillimbury and a portion of Newmarket would be conveyed to an advanced wastewater treatment plant for treatment and discharge within the Lake Simcoe watershed, in compliance with the phosphorus loading targets established by the Phosphorus Reduction Strategy under the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan. Wastewater from approved growth in Newmarket and Aurora would continue to be conveyed to the existing York Durham Sewage System.
Do Nothing Alternative	One of the four Alternatives To the Undertaking examined in the UYSS EA. Under this alternative, no additional wastewater collection and treatment capacity would be built to accommodate the approved growth.
Environmental Assessment (EA)	A generic term for a study that assesses the potential environmental effects (positive or negative) of a proposal. For the purposes of the UYSS EA, an Environmental Assessment refers to the process and related documentation, including the submission of a Terms of Reference and final Environmental Assessment Report for approval by the Minister of the Environment, in accordance with the requirements of Part II of the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> .
Greenbelt Plan	Established under the authority of Section 3 of the <i>Greenbelt Act, 2005</i> . The Greenbelt Plan identifies where urbanization should not occur in order to provide permanent protection to the agricultural land base and the ecological features and functions occurring on this landscape.
Lake Simcoe Water Reclamation Centre Alternative	One of the four Alternatives To the Undertaking examined in the UYSS EA. Under this alternative, wastewater from approved growth in East Gwillimbury and a portion of Newmarket would be conveyed to a Water Reclamation Centre within the Lake Simcoe watershed. Wastewater from approved growth in Newmarket and Aurora would be conveyed to the existing York Durham Sewage System for treatment and discharge to Lake Ontario.

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Lake Simcoe Protection Plan	Established under the authority of <i>Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008</i> . The objectives of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, approved June 2009, include to protect, improve or restore the elements that contribute to the ecological health of the Lake Simcoe watershed including water quality, hydrology, key natural heritage features and their functions, and key hydrologic features and their functions.
Non-potable Water	Water that is not intended for human consumption and therefore intended for non-drinking water uses only.
Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM)	An environmentally sensitive, geological landform in south central Ontario, covering 190,000 hectares. Delineated and protected by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.
Ontario Water Resources Act (OWRA)	The <i>OWRA</i> provides for the conservation, protection and management of Ontario's waters and for their efficient and sustainable use to promote Ontario's long-term environmental, social and economic well-being.
Phosphorus	Occurs naturally in the environment and is an essential nutrient needed by plants and animals. Because phosphorus is a nutrient, high levels in a lake encourage the growth of plants and algae. Although some phosphorus is required to support a healthy aquatic ecosystem, too much phosphorus leads to excessive growth of plants and algae in the lake. As these plants decay, dissolved oxygen required by fish and other aquatic species is depleted.
Phosphorus Loading Targets	Established by the Phosphorus Reduction Strategy under the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, the phosphorus loading targets aim to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering streams and Lake Simcoe from the subwatersheds and other specific areas within the Lake Simcoe watershed. This will help the Lake Simcoe watershed reduce the amount of phosphorus discharged to surface waters and meet the long-term phosphorus reduction goals in the Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Reduction Strategy.
Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Reduction Strategy	The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan commits the Province, working with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, local stakeholders, municipalities and other partners, to develop a comprehensive Phosphorus Reduction Strategy (PRS). The Strategy identifies specific reduction goals and potential reduction opportunities to achieve phosphorus loading targets for Lake Simcoe. In addition, the Strategy incorporates several key concepts and strategic directions including: adaptive management, watershed approach, stewardship and community action, source-specific actions, monitoring and compliance, and research, modeling and innovation.

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Potable Water	Water from ground or surface sources that is suitable for human consumption.
Reclaimed Water	Wastewater that has gone through various treatment processes to meet specific water quality criteria with the intent of being used in a beneficial manner (e.g. irrigation and industrial uses).
Reverse Osmosis	A high-pressure membrane separation process in which a liquid is forced across a membrane against osmotic pressure. Osmosis is the passage of pure solvent (such as water) between two solutions separated by a semi-permeable membrane in response to a concentration gradient (i.e. from the lesser to the greater solute concentration). The term osmotic pressure refers to the pressure exerted by the flow of the solvent through the membrane separating two solutions with different concentrations of solute. Reverse Osmosis membranes are effective in removing dissolved constituents with a membrane pore size of 0.001 micrometres (µm) or less.
Source Water Protection – South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region	Source Water Protection is an initiative to ensure that Ontario’s drinking water resources are conserved and protected from pollution. The South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region contains four watersheds (Severn Sound, Black Severn River, Nottawasaga River, and Lake Simcoe), and extends southwards from the Canadian Shield to the Oak Ridges Moraine.
Water Opportunities Act	This Act was passed in Legislature on November 23, 2010. This Act aims to advance water conservation and treatment technologies in Ontario, supports sustainable infrastructure and the use of Ontario made technologies, and emphasizes the importance of water conservation and planning. It also intends to attract economic development and create jobs, and make Ontario the leader of water conservation and treatment in North America.
Water Reclamation Centre	A wastewater (sewage) treatment plant for treatment or processing of wastewater to make it reusable by meeting appropriate water quality criteria.
York Durham Sewage System (YDSS)	A centralized wastewater collection and treatment system for both York and Durham Regions.
York Region's Sustainability Strategy Water and Wastewater Servicing	Specific components and strategies for York Region’s water and wastewater servicing intended to ensure that the Region’s water and wastewater works and services meet “the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.
