

# DRINKING WATER PROTECTION POLICY

## POLICY STATEMENT

The Corporation of the City of Barrie (City) will protect its drinking resources from negative quantity and quality impacts due to activities related to private and municipal construction, land development, renovation, repair, maintenance, or demolition activity at a property.

## SCOPE

All private landowners, Members of Council and Officers, and employees of The Corporation of the City of Barrie are required to adhere to this Policy and its governing provisions.

## PURPOSE

Deep drilling and construction activities that intercept the municipal supply aquifer can create transport pathways for possible contamination of the drinking water system. Additionally, activities that have the potential to mobilize contamination may allow existing or future contaminants to reach the municipal aquifer through 'windows' in the overlying aquitards or surface water sources through creeks and overland flows.

This Policy will address and mitigate the risks from the following activities, including but not limited to:

- New building foundations;
- Supports for infrastructure;
- Excavation;
- Geotechnical work related to boreholes and monitoring wells;
- Geothermal Heat Pump systems;
- Groundwater dewatering (quality);
- Private water wells; and
- Water taking.

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## SPECIFIC POLICY REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Contaminated Sites

- 1.1. On-site activities (drilling, excavation, etc.) extending beyond the upper aquitard on sites with known or suspected contamination shall not occur without review and approval from the City.
- 1.2. Consideration for approval requires that information be submitted to the City by the Owner. Information requirements will be in accordance with City procedures.
- 1.3. Any required information may be subject to third-party technical review at the expense of the Owner.

### 2. Deep Drilling

- 2.1. Drilling activities (boreholes, monitoring wells, etc.) expected or planned to enter the municipal aquifer shall not be undertaken without review and approval from the City.
- 2.2. Consideration for approval requires that information be submitted to the City by the Owner. Information requirements will be in accordance with City procedures.
- 2.3. Any required information may be subject to third-party technical review at the expense of the Owner.
- 2.4. The Owner shall inform the City of drilling activities expected or planned to extend beyond the upper aquitard in accordance with City procedures.

### 3. Foundations and Subsurface Activities

- 3.1. Building foundations shall be designed to stay above the municipal aquifer.
- 3.2. Activities (excavations, shoring, foundations, piling) expected or planned to extend beyond the upper aquitard shall not be undertaken without review and approval from the City.
- 3.3. Consideration for approval requires that information be submitted to the City by the Owner. Information requirements will be in accordance with City procedures.
- 3.4. Any required information may be subject to third-party technical review at the expense of the Owner.

### 4. Geothermal Heat Pump Systems

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- 4.1. Geothermal Heat Pump systems shall be designed to stay above the municipal aquifer.
  - 4.2. Geothermal Heat Pump systems expected or planned to extend beyond the upper aquitard shall not be constructed without review and approval from the City.
  - 4.3. Consideration for approval requires that information be submitted to the City by the Owner. Information requirements will be in accordance with City procedures.
  - 4.4. Any required information may be subject to third-party technical review at the expense of the Owner.
5. Groundwater Dewatering
- 5.1. Permanent dewatering required for development is not permitted.
  - 5.2. Temporary dewatering required for development is not permitted to be directed into a municipal sewer system unless approved by the City through a Sewer Discharge Agreement under the Sewer-Use Bylaw.
6. Private Water Wells
- 6.1. All private water wells shall be designed to stay above the municipal aquifer.
  - 6.2. Private water wells to be used for domestic purposes are prohibited if municipal services are available.
  - 6.3. Private water wells for non-domestic purposes expected or planned to extend beyond the upper aquitard shall not be constructed without review and approval from the City.
  - 6.4. Consideration for approval requires that information be submitted to the City by the Owner. Information requirements will be in accordance with City procedures.
  - 6.5. Any required information may be subject to third-party technical review at the expense of the Owner.
7. Potable Water Standards
- 7.1. The City shall object to requests made for the application of non-potable groundwater standards to sites required to obtain a Record of Site Condition under O. Reg 153/04.

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7.2. Potable water standards must be applied to all other contaminated sites undergoing land development or construction where a Record of Site Condition is not required under O. Reg 153/04.

## DEFINITIONS

**MUNICIPAL AQUIFER** – Means groundwater beneath the earth's surface accumulating as a result of seepage from where municipal supply wells draw water.

**OWNER** – Means the person or entity that owns the land and controls activities occurring on the land.

**CONTAMINATED SITE** – Means a site at which substances occur at concentrations: (1) above background levels and pose or are likely to pose an immediate or long-term hazard to human health or the environment, or (2) exceeding levels specified in Municipal, Provincial, and Federal Policies and Regulations.

**GEOHERMAL HEAT PUMP** – Means a heating and/or cooling system that transfers heat to or from the earth and/or groundwater.

**GROUNDWATER DEWATERING** – Means the taking of water from a well or otherwise extracting groundwater, or any other combination of activities where the water from such activities would be discharged into the Municipal Sewage Works and such activities are related to a construction, land development, renovation, repair, maintenance, or demolition activity at a Site.

**POTABLE and NON-POTABLE WATER STANDARDS** – Means the standards set out in the applicable Tables of *Soil, groundwater, and sediment standards for use under Part XV.1 of the Environmental Protection Act*.

**PRIVATE WATER WELL** – Means any well that removes groundwater for domestic, commercial, or industrial uses that is not owned and maintained by the Corporation of the City of Barrie.

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## REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

### **Rationale and Legislative Authority:**

The *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* details a standard of care whereby a Municipality must act competently and with integrity to ensure the protection and safety of users of a municipal drinking water system.

The City of Barrie Official Plan gives direction for controlling growth so that the City's capacity for providing a healthy community environment is not exceeded. Specifically, Policy 3.5.2.3 outlines that "the City will maintain and, where possible, protect, improve or restore the quality and sustainability of surface and groundwater resources".

### **Related Policies, Legislation and By-laws**

City of Barrie Official Plan Policy 3.5.2.3

*Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*

*Clean Water Act, 2006*

Sewer Use By-Law 2020-002

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## LOG OF CHANGES

*(This document should include any and all changes to the procedure and be kept separately from the procedure itself for document management purposes).*

DATE	SPECIFIC CHANGE	EDITOR'S NAME	REASON FOR CHANGE