

# York Region Sewage Works Project Report

→ Ontario Association of Impact Assessment Conference

October 2024

# ***Supporting Growth and Housing in York and Durham Regions Act***

“[The Act required] York and Durham Regions to do everything in their powers to enlarge and improve the existing York Durham Sewage System to convey sewage from Aurora, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury to the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant in Durham Region.

This proposal would accommodate growth and housing development in the upper part of York Region to 2051.”

<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6192>

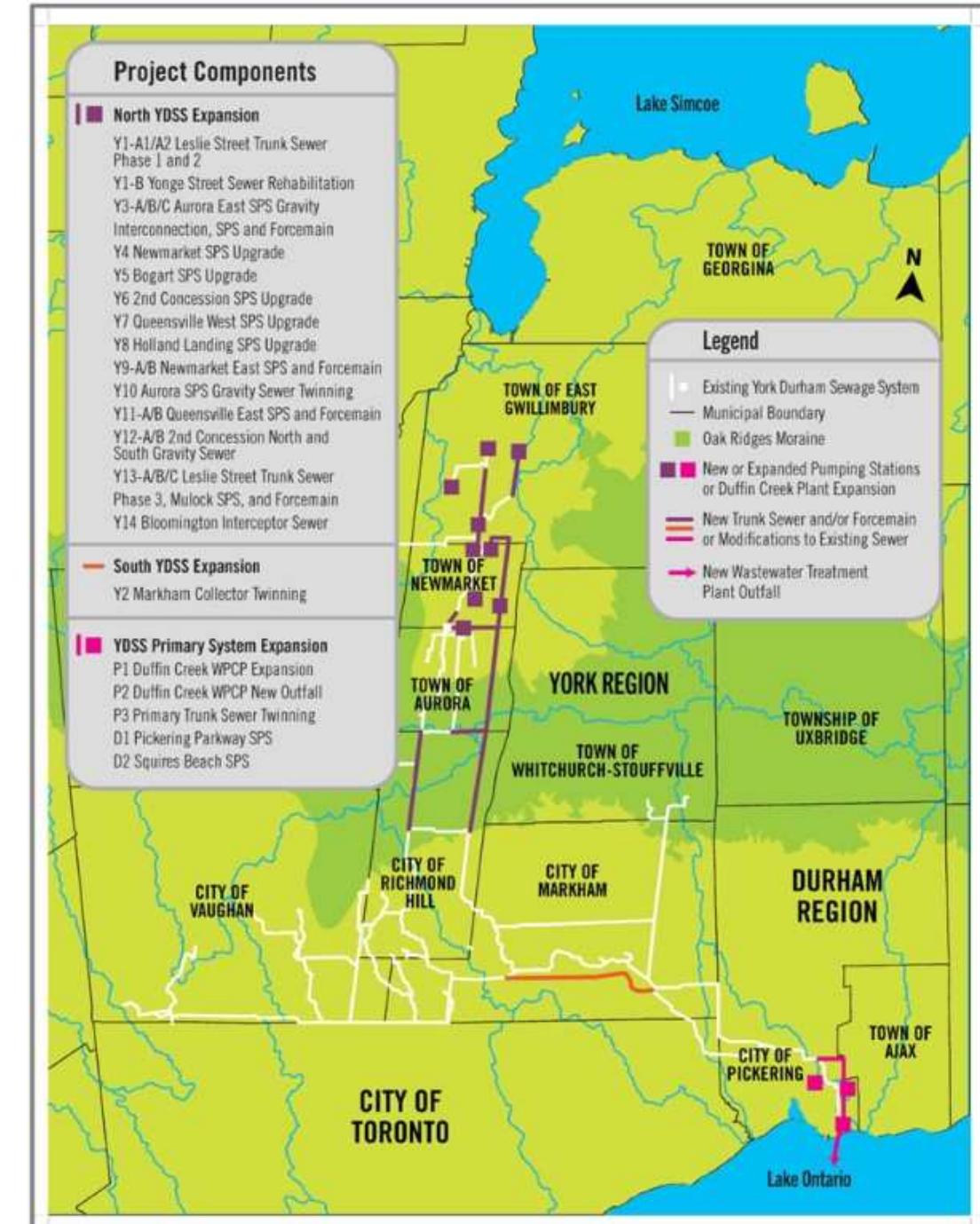


# York Region Sewage Works Project Components

The York Region Sewage Works Project is defined in the Act as the improvement, enlargement, extension and any other modifications of the YDSS in York and Durham Regions to convey sewage from Aurora, East Gwillimbury and Newmarket

The Project includes:

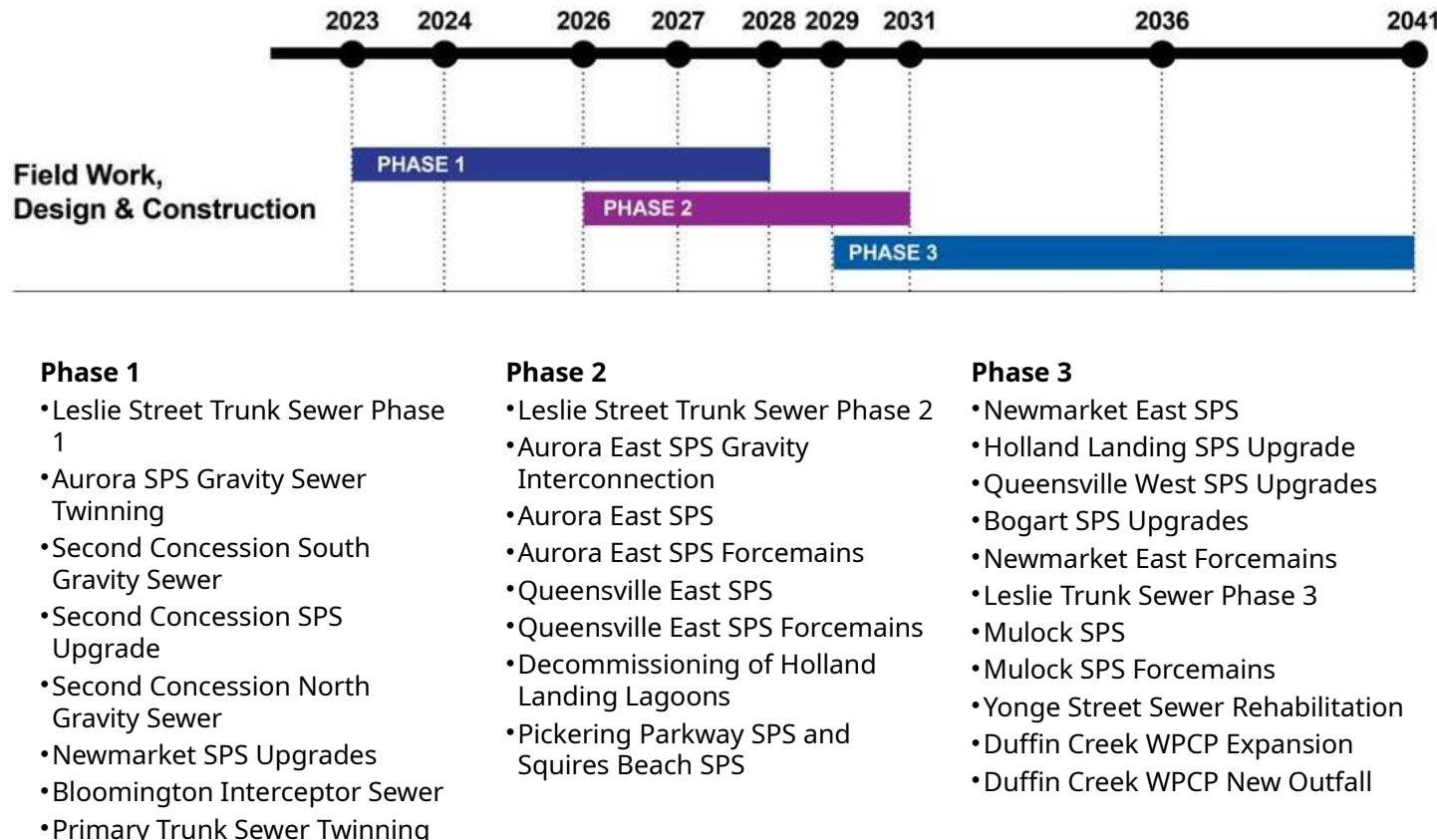
- New wastewater sewers, new pumping stations and expansions to existing pumping stations in East Gwillimbury, Newmarket, Aurora, Richmond Hill, Markham and Pickering
- Expansion of the Duffin Creek WPCP in Pickering



# Program Approach & Early Coordination

In the absence of typical direction provided by the *Environmental Assessment Act*, early coordination with the Regions helped to:

- Ensure consistency across project components
- Identify efficiencies in existing conditions across project components, impact assessments, and impact mitigation measures
- Manage those efficiencies when considering the varying project timelines
- Maintain the integrity of the impact assessment best practices



# Program Approach

Ch 1: Introduction and Background

Ch 2: Confirmation/Description of Components

Ch 3: Design Basis

Ch 4: Infrastructure in East Gwillimbury

Ch 5: Infrastructure in Newmarket/Aurora

Ch 6: Leslie Street Trunk Sewer and Yonge Street Sewer Rehabilitation

Ch 7: Markham Collector Twinning

Ch 8: Primary Trunk

Ch 9: Duffin Creek WPCP Expansion

Ch 10: Duffin Creek WPCP Outfall Twinning

Ch 11: Implementation Plan

Ch 12: Conclusion

## Contents of Chapters 4 - 10

- Overview
- For each component:
  - Study Area Description
  - Existing Conditions
  - Concept Design
  - Environmental Impacts and Mitigation
- Capital Cost Estimate
- Implementation Plan:
  - Field Investigations
  - Permit and Approval Requirements
  - Schedule

# Impact Assessment

The Project Report assessed impacts to and developed mitigation measures for:

- The **natural environment**, including natural heritage features and species at risk
- **Geotechnical and hydrogeological** conditions
- **Groundwater and surface watercourses** such as rivers, creeks and Lake Ontario
- Existing potential **soil and groundwater contamination**
- Existing and future **land uses** and private **property**
- **Archaeological resources** on land and marine environments and **cultural heritage landscapes**
- **Air Quality, odour, noise and vibration**
- **Traffic** related impacts during construction and operation

# Consultation Requirements in the Act

## **How** consultation is undertaken:

- York and Durham Regions must consult with Indigenous Nations and persons who may be interested in the Project
- Minister to provide a list of Indigenous communities that, in the opinion of the Minister, have or may have aboriginal or treaty rights that may be adversely impacted

## **What** consultation entails:

- Make the report publicly available on their websites and provide the report to Indigenous communities
- Discuss with each Indigenous community:
  - Aboriginal or treaty rights that may be adversely impacted by the project
  - Potential adverse impacts of the project on Aboriginal or treaty rights
  - Measures that may avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts on Aboriginal or treaty rights, including any measures identified by the community.

# Consultation Requirements in the Act

## **How** consultation is documented

- Two separate consultation reports for Indigenous communities and interested persons, which include:
  - Description of the consultations;
  - List of the Indigenous communities or interested persons who participated;
  - Summaries of discussions and comments submitted and copies of written comments;
  - Description of what the Regions did to respond to concerns
  - Commitments made by York Region and Durham Region

## **Ministerial approval:**

- Minister may require further consultation and/or modifications to the Project Report
- York Region and Durham Region shall not submit an application for an environmental compliance approval under the consultation required under section 5 has been completed to the Minister's satisfaction

# Project Report and Consultation Timeline

## ◆ START OF CONSULTATION

### DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT REPORT

Consultation on environmental impacts and mitigation

## ◆ SUBMISSION OF DRAFT PROJECT REPORT AND CONSULTATION REPORTS TO MECP

### ◆ SUBMISSION OF FINAL PROJECT REPORT TO MECP

## ◆ RELEASE OF PROJECT REPORT AND INTERIM CONSULTATION REPORT

Project Report released to the public  
Interested Persons & Indigenous Nations

### REVIEW

Interested Persons Review Timeline (30 Days)

### REVIEW

Indigenous Nations Proposed Review  
Timeline (75 Days)

### ◆ CONTINUED CONSULTATION

◆ ANTICIPATED MINISTER APPROVAL (2024)



# Interested Persons Consultation

Public Notice to introduce Project and invite participation

Webpage updated at key milestones

Introductory letters to agencies and local municipalities to invite participation

One-on-one meetings with interested agencies and local municipalities at key milestones

Formal review of conceptual design, impacts and proposed mitigation

## Public Notice York Region Sewage Works Project

In the Towns of East Gwillimbury, Newmarket and Aurora, and Cities of Markham, Richmond Hill and Pickering

The Regional Municipalities of York and Durham are working together to carry out the York Region Sewage Works Project, a long-term wastewater infrastructure project across the Towns of East Gwillimbury, Newmarket and Aurora and the Cities of Richmond Hill, Markham and Pickering.

As required by the *Supporting Growth and Housing in York and Durham Regions Act, 2022*, the York Region Sewage Works Project will increase the existing York Durham Sewage System, including new or expanded wastewater sewers, pumping stations, and enhancements to the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant on the shore of Lake Ontario in the City of Pickering.

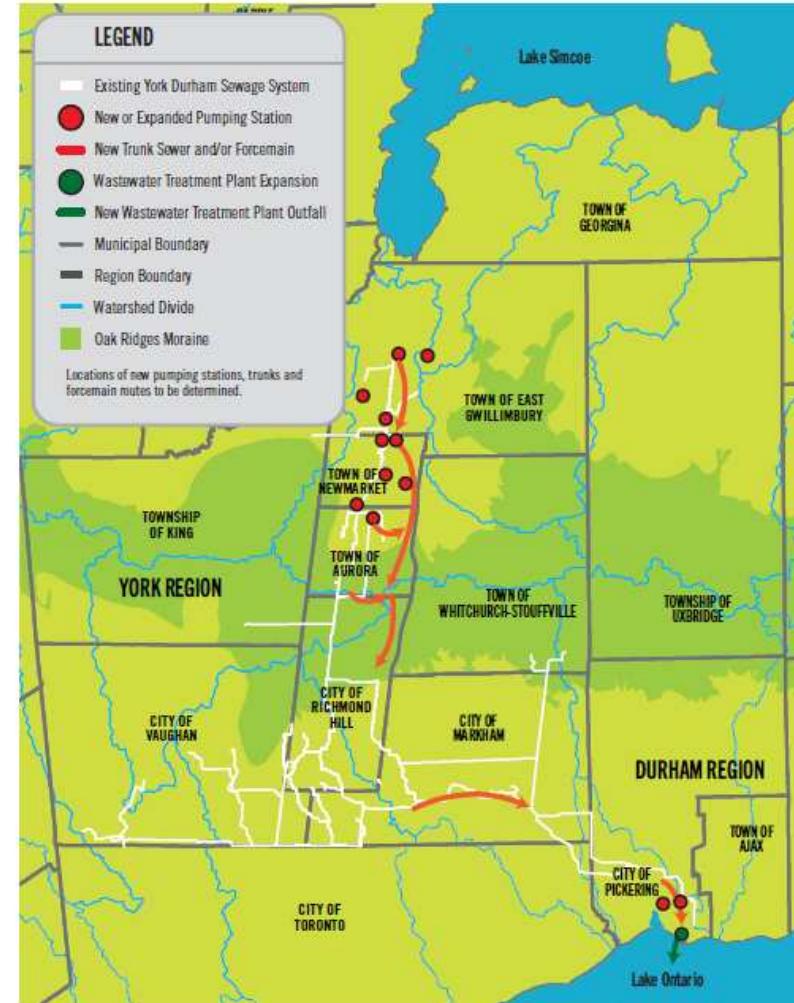
Durham Region will support proposed work within the City of Pickering as part of the project.

If you are interested in participating in the consultation, please contact York Region by Monday, August 14, 2023.

York Region  
York Region Sewage Works Project  
17250 Yonge Street  
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6Z1  
1-877-464-9675 ext. 75124  
YorkRegionSewageWorks@york.ca

Visit [york.ca/waterconstruction](http://york.ca/waterconstruction) for more information about the project and to sign up for project updates. This notice was issued on Thursday, July 13, 2023.

An accessible version of this notice is available upon request. Please let us know if you require accommodation to participate in the project.



Personal information submitted (e.g., name, address and phone number) is collected, maintained and disclosed under the authority of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* for consultation purposes. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public, unless you request that your personal information remain confidential.

# Consultation with Indigenous Communities

York Region and Durham Region committed to working with Indigenous communities to reflect Indigenous rights, interests and input throughout planning and implementation of the Project

Indigenous Nations were invited to actively participate in the Project, contribute to shaping the Project Report, and review the Report and supporting studies.

Capacity funding was provided by York Region



# Consultation with Indigenous Communities

Formal letter to introduce Project and invite them to participate

Tailored approach for each Community, including:

- Email updates at key milestones

- One-on-one and group meetings at key milestones

- Review of archaeological and cultural heritage reports

- Monitoring of Stage Two fieldwork

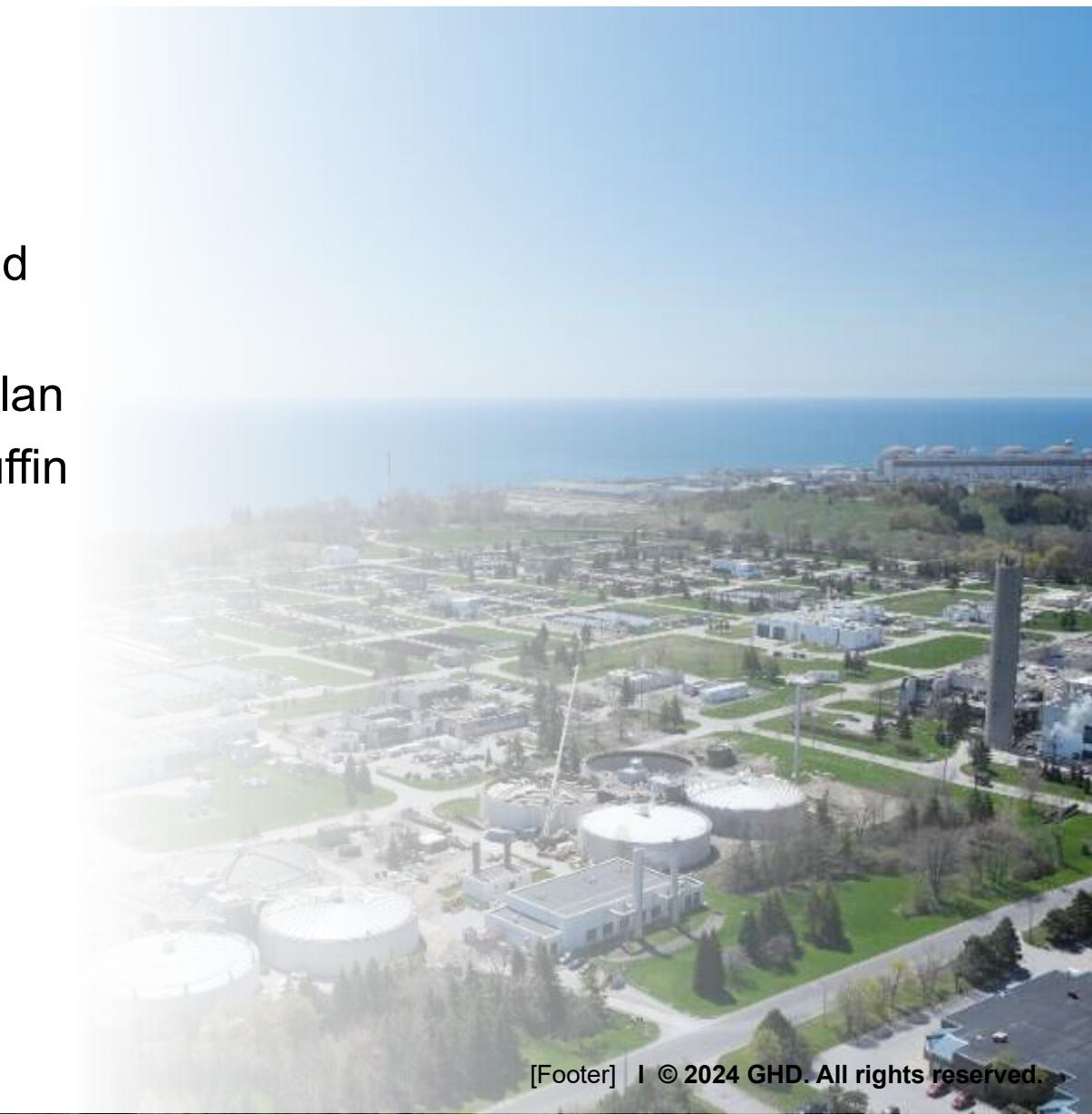
- Review of Project Report

- Site visit to Duffin Creek WPCP



# Next Steps and Future Engagement

- Design and additional approvals moving forward for Phase 1 project components
- Participation in archaeological field investigations and review of archaeological assessments
- Development of Archaeological Risk Management Plan
- Additional Marine Archaeological Assessment for Duffin Creek WPCP Outfall, including consideration of Indigenous people's traditional land/water use and history and community-specific knowledge
- Ongoing consultation with approval agencies
- Ongoing public communication
- Ongoing engagement with local municipalities
- Progress reporting to MECP



# Thank you!



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