

## 7 GLOSSARY & COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

### 7.1 GLOSSARY

The definitions in this manual and in the glossary are consistent with those provided in the Authority's Generic Regulation as well as in the Provincial Policy Statement.

**Accepted Engineering Principles:** means those current coastal and hydraulic engineering principles, methods and procedures that would be judged by a peer group of qualified engineers (by virtue of their training and experience), as being reasonable for the scale and type of project being considered, the sensitivity of the location, and the potential threats to life and property.

**Accepted Geotechnical Principles:** means those current geotechnical engineering principles, methods and procedures that would be judged by a peer group of qualified engineers (by virtue of their training and experience), as being reasonable for the scale and type of project being considered, the sensitivity of the location, and the potential threats to life and property.

**Accepted Scientific Principles:** means those current principles, methods and procedures, which are used and applied in disciplines such as geology, geomorphology, hydrology, botany and zoology, and would be judged by a peer group of qualified specialists and practitioners (by virtue of their training and experience), as being reasonable for the scale and type of project being considered, the sensitivity of the location, and the potential threats to life and property.

**Access** (ingress/egress): means the standards and procedures currently applied in engineering practice associated with providing safe passage for vehicles and people to and from a shoreline or river-side property during an emergency situation as a result of flooding, other water related hazards, the failure of floodproofing and/or protection works, and/or erosion that have been reviewed and approved by the Conservation Authority and/or the Ministry of Natural Resources.

**Accessory:** when describing a use, building or structure means a use, a building or structure that is subordinate and exclusively devoted to a main use, building or structure and located on the same lot.

**Active Floodproofing:** means floodproofing techniques which require some action prior to an impending flood in order to make the flood protection operational (e.g. closing water tight doors).

**Adjacent Lands:** means those lands which are contiguous to a natural heritage feature or area where there is a potential that development or site alteration will have a negative impact on the feature or area. The adjacent lands provide a trigger for the need of an EIS.

**Apparent System:** means a riverine system where the physical presence of a valley corridor containing the system is visibly discernible. Also “well-defined system”.

**Area of Interference:** means the area located outside of the wetland that could impact the wetlands if development were to be permitted.

**Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs):** means areas having life science and earth science values designated by the MNR for protection, scientific study or education, chosen as representative of certain biological regions.

**Bankfull Discharge:** means the formative flow of water that characterizes the morphology of a fluvial channel. In a single channel stream, “bankfull” is the discharge, which just fills the channel without flowing onto the flood plain.

**Bankfull Width:** means the width of a bankfull channel measured at the widest Riffle section of the channel.

**Baseflow:** means the stream flow derived from groundwater.

**Best Management Practices (BMPs):** means methods, facilities and structures which are designed to protect or improve the environment and natural heritage features from the effects of land development activities. BMPs can include land use restrictions, source control of pollutants, stormwater management ponds, grassed swales, underground storage facilities, woodlot management, soil erosion control, crop rotation, tree windbreaks and natural fencerows.

**Bioata:** means all plant and animal life.

**Biodiversity (Biological Diversity):** means the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

**Buffers:** means planned and managed strips of land and vegetation located between natural heritage features/areas and development sites which are intended to protect the natural heritage feature.

**Channelization:** means the straightening, widening and/or deepening of a watercourse channel.

**Conservation of Land:** means the protection, preservation, management, or restoration of lands within the watershed that include natural heritage features such as wetlands, woodlands and wildlife habitat as well as natural resources including surface and ground water.

**Cumulative Effects:** means the combined effects of all activities in an area over time and the incremental effects associated with individual projects in an area over time.

**Development:** in the PPS means the creation of a new lot, a change in land use or the construction of buildings and structures which require approval under the Planning Act but does not include:

1. activities that create or maintain infrastructure authorized under an environmental assessment process;
2. works subject to the Drainage Act; or
3. for the purposes of policy 2.1.3 (b), underground or surface mining of minerals or advanced exploration on mining lands in significant areas of mineral potential in EcoRegion 5E, where advanced exploration has the same meaning as under the Mining Act. Instead those matters shall be subject to policy 2.1.4(a)

**Development:** under the Conservation Authorities Act means:

- the construction, reconstruction, erection or placing of a building or structure of any kind; or
- any change to a building or structure that would have the effect of altering the use or potential use of the building or structure, increasing the size of the building or structure, or increasing the number of dwelling units in the building or structure; or
- site grading; or
- the temporary or permanent placing, dumping or removal of any material, originating on the site or elsewhere.

**Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shoreline Regulation:** means the regulation under the Conservation Authorities Act that allows the UTRCA (and all Conservations Authorities across the province) to:

- Prohibit, regulate or provide permission for straightening, changing, diverting or interfering in any way with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream, watercourse or changing, or interfering with a wetland.
- Prohibit, regulate or provide permission for development if the control of flooding erosion, dynamic beaches, pollution or the conservation of land may be affected by the development.

**Drainage Area:** means, for a point, the area that contributes runoff to that point.

**Dry Floodproofing:** means protecting a building or structure by sealing its exterior walls to prevent the entry of flood waters.

**Ecosystem:** means systems of plants, animals and micro-organisms together with non-living components of their environment, related ecological processes and humans.

**Ecosystem Approach:** means the linkages and relationships involving air, land, water and living organisms. The approach is adaptive and recognizes the dynamic nature of watersheds and watercourses and their respective landforms. It is intended to restore and maintain the integrity, quality, productivity and well being of the watershed and subwatersheds.

**Endangered Species:** means any indigenous species of fauna or flora which on the basis of the available scientific evidence is facing imminent extinction or extirpation.

**Environmental Assessment Process:** means a process that is used to predict the environmental effects of proposed initiatives before they are carried out. It is used to identify measures to mitigate adverse effects on the environment and can predict whether there will be significant adverse environmental effects, even after the mitigation is implemented.

**Environmental Impact Study (EIS):** means a report prepared by qualified professionals (engineers, biologists) to address the potential impacts of development on natural heritage features and areas. The types of Environmental Impact Studies include

Comprehensive EIS – is a landscape scale study which identifies natural heritage features for protection, potential development areas and development setbacks that are ecologically sustainable.

Scoped EIS – is an area specific study that addresses issues of particular concern not previously addressed in sufficient detail in a comprehensive study. The factors which may be considered for a scoped EIS include:

- The extent of the encroachment;
- The potential impact of the use; and
- The sensitivity of the feature.

**Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs):** means natural areas including wetlands or ANSIs which have been, designated for protection by a regional or local municipality.

**Erosion:** means the process of gradual washing away of soil by water movement or seepage which may occur in one of the following ways:

- Rainfall or snowmelt and surface runoff (sheet, rill or gully erosion);
- Internal seepage and piping;
- Water flow (banks or base of river, creek channel); and
- Wave Action (shorelines of ponds, lakes bays)

Erosion impacts soil at the particle level by dislodging and removing the particles from the parent mass (with water being the transporting agent). Wind and frost may also weather and transport soil particles.

**Erosion Access Allowance:** means the allowance of 6 metres that is needed for the purpose of maintaining sufficient access for emergencies, maintenance, and construction activities within Apparent and Not Apparent Valley Systems.

**Fill:** means any material used or capable of being used to raise, lower or in any way affect the contours of the ground, whether on a permanent or temporary basis, and whether it originated on the site or elsewhere.

**Fish Habitat:** means the spawning grounds and nursery, food supply and migration areas which fish rely on to live.

**Flood/Flooding:** means a temporary rise in the water level which results in an influx of water in areas located adjacent to a watercourse that are usually not covered by water.

**Flood Fringe:** means the outer portion of the flood plain between the floodway and the limit of the regulatory flood. Flood depths and velocities have a tendency to be less severe in the flood fringe as compared to those in the floodway.

**Flood Plain:** means the area, usually low lands, adjoining a watercourse which has been, or may be covered by flood water.

**Floodproofing:** means a combination of structural changes and/or adjustments incorporated into the basic design and/or construction or alteration of individual buildings, structures or properties subject to flooding so as to reduce or eliminate flood damages.

**Floodway:** means the channel of a watercourse and the inner portion of the flood plain where flood depths and velocities are generally greater than those experienced in the flood fringe. The floodway represents that area required for the safe passage of flood flow and/or that area where flood depths and/or velocities are considered to pose a potential threat to life and/or property damage.

**Fragmentation:** means the breaking up of a once large system into smaller parts. The interruption of continuous forest cover has resulted in isolated forest fragments and limited forest ecosystem function.

**Groundwater:** means (1) Water occurring below the soil surface that is held in the soil itself. (2) Subsurface water or water stored in the pores, cracks and crevices in the ground below the water table. (3) Water occurring in the zone of saturation below the earth's surface.

**Habitat:** means the particular type of local environment occupied by an individual or a population.

**HADD** - means a harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat.

**Hazard Land Allowance:** means the allowance of 15 metres that is added to the Riverine Hazard Limit giving an extra factor of safety, providing protection against unforeseen conditions that may adversely affect the land located adjacent to a natural hazard area.

**Hazard Lands:** means land that could be unsafe for development because of naturally occurring processes associated with flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, or unstable soil or bedrock.

**Hazardous Substance:** means substances which individually, or in combination with other substances are considered to pose a danger to public health and safety and the environment. These substances include a wide range of materials that are toxic, ignitable, reactive, corrosive, radioactive or pathological.

**Headwater:** means the source and extreme upper reaches of a stream, drain or river.

**Hyporheic Zone:** means the biologically active saturated zone in the bed of a watercourse which sometimes extends metres beneath the stream and laterally beneath the flood plain.

**Infill:** means the development of previously undeveloped lots or the creation of a residential lot between two existing developed lots of a similar size and which are located on the same side of the road and are not more than 100 metres apart.

**Meander Belt:** means the area of land in which a watercourse channel moves or is likely to move over a period of time.

**Meander Belt Allowance** - means a limit for development within the areas where the river system is likely to shift. It is based on twenty (20) times the bankfull channel width, where the bankfull channel width is measured at the widest riffle section of the reach. A riffle is a section of shallow rapids where the water surface is broken by small waves. The meander belt is centred over a meander belt axis that connects the riffle sections of the stream.

**Meander Belt Axis:** means the line or “axis” that the meander belt is centred over which connects all of the riffle sections of a stream.

**Mineral Aggregate:** means a non-renewable resource that has no substitute available either in the required quantities or at the same reasonable cost. They consist primarily of sand, gravel, clay and bedrock (including stone used in cement, lime or clay bricks or tile).

**Minor Works:** means a category of development within the flood plain which has relatively small economic value and will not lead to significant economic hardship if lost in times of severe flooding. The construction of minor works does not require detailed floodproofing measures and therefore there is an assumption of risk associated with the development.

**Natural Hazards:** means physical environmental processes operating near or at the surface of the earth and sites of unstable soils that limit potential uses of some lands. They may include floods, ice jams, soil erosion, and slope failures that have resulted in damage to property, injury to humans and loss of life. Marine clay, organic soils and karst topography are also considered to be natural hazards because they are unstable and sensitive.

**Natural Heritage Features and Areas:** means features and areas including significant wetlands, woodlands, valleylands, wildlife habitat, fish habitat, and significant portions of the habitat of endangered and threatened species which are important for their environmental and cultural values.

**Natural Heritage System:** means a system made up of natural heritage features and areas, linked by natural corridors which are necessary to maintain biological and geological diversity, natural functions, viable populations of indigenous species and ecosystems. These systems can include lands that have been restored and areas with the potential to be restored to a natural state.

**Net Ecological Benefit:** see Net Environmental Benefit

**Net Environmental Benefit:** (interchangeable with net ecological benefit) means striving to achieve a relative increase in environmental features and functions as a result of new development or land uses and/or from a rehabilitation plan associated with an aggregate extraction operation. Net environmental gain is measured by considering a variety of factors such as biological diversity. It is determined by comparing the state of the environment prior to development or rehabilitation occurring with the projected long-term results of measures that are intended to protect and enhance the environment. Net environmental gain does not mean that the state of the environment will stay the same. There may be some unavoidable losses on a project by project basis that will need to be reinstated and enhanced.

**Not Apparent System:** means a river or stream system where there is no discernible valley slope or bank that can be detected from the surrounding landscape. Also “Ill-defined system”.

**Observed Flood Event:** means a flood actually experienced in a particular watershed or portion thereof.

**One Hundred Year Erosion Limit:** means the total combined distance of the Toe Erosion Allowance, the Long Term Angle of Stability and the Erosion Access Allowance.

**One Hundred Year Erosion Rate:** The predicted lateral movement of a watercourse over a period of one hundred years.

**One Hundred Year Flood:** means that flood which is based on an analysis of precipitation, snow melt, or a combination thereof, having an average return period of 100 years or having a 1% chance of occurring or being exceeded in any given year. It is the minimum acceptable regulatory flood standard.

**One Zone Approach:** means the approach where the entire flood plain as defined by the regulatory flood is treated as one unit and all development is prohibited or restricted.

**Other Wetlands:** means any wetland that meets the definition of a wetland that is not Provincially Significant.

**Passive Floodproofing:** means floodproofing techniques which are permanently in place and do not require advance warning and action in order to make the floodproofing and/or flood protection measure effective.

**Pollution:** means any deleterious physical substance or other contaminant which has the potential to be generated by development in an area where the Authority’s regulation applies.

**Protection Works:** means structural or non-structural works which are intended to appropriately address damages caused by flooding, erosion and/or other water related hazards.

**Provincially Significant Wetlands** – means protected under Provincial planning policy.

**Regulation Limit:** means the outside limit of all hazards and wetlands.

**Regulatory Flood Plain:** means the approved standard(s) which is used in a particular watershed to define the limits of the flood plain for regulatory purposes. In the case of the Upper Thames River watershed, the 1937 observed flood event serves as the Regulatory Flood level.

**Replacement:** means the removal of an existing structure and the construction of a new residential or habitable structure of the same or smaller size.

**Replacement Structure:** means structures that replace existing building or structures, including buildings and structures designated as architecturally or historically important and that have (recently) been demolished or destroyed but does not include reconstruction on remnant foundations.

**Restricted Uses:** means

- Conservation uses or activities such as wildlife or fisheries management, forestry or passive recreation;
- flood and/or erosion control structures;
- facilities which by their nature must locate near water or traverse water;
- ancillary facilities of an adjacent land use which are of a passive, non-structural nature and do not adversely affect the natural hazard or natural heritage feature or function; and
- municipal infrastructure including roads and utilities/servicing (i.e. sewer lines, gas pipelines, hydro facilities).

The establishment of restricted uses must be supported by an EIS or an Environmental Assessment.

**Riffle:** means is a section of shallow rapids where the water surface is broken by small waves.

**Riparian Rights:** means the common law rights of owners of property along a river or shoreline or other bodies of water. The rights include making reasonable use of the water flowing past their land.

**Riverine Hazard Limit:** means the limit which encompasses the Flood Hazards, the Erosion Hazards and the Watercourses.

**Significant:** as defined in the PPS -

- a) In the case of wetlands means an areas identified as provincially significant by the MNR using evaluation procedures established by the Province as amended from time to time.
- b) In the case of endangered species and threatened species, means the habitat as approved by the MNR that is necessary for the maintenance, survival, and/or recovery of naturally occurring or reintroduced populations of endangered species or threatened species, and where those areas of occurrence are occupied or habitually occupied by the species during all or any part(s) of its life cycle.
- c) In the case of woodlands, means an area which is ecologically important in terms of features such as species composition, age of trees and stand history; functionally important due to its contribution to the broader landscape because of its location, size or due to the amount of forest cover in the planning area; or economically important due to site quality, species composition, or past management history.
- d) In the case of other features and areas including valleylands and wildlife habitat, it means ecologically important in terms of features and linkages, function representations or amount, and contributing to the quality and diversity of an identifiable geographic area or natural heritage system.

**Site Alteration:** in the PPS means activities such as grading, excavation and the placement of fill that would change the landform and natural vegetative characteristics of a site.

For the purposes of policy 2.1.3(b), site alteration does not include underground or surface mining of minerals or advanced exploration on mining lands in significant areas of mining potential in Ecoregion 5E, where advanced exploration has the same meaning as the Mining Act. Instead, those matter shall be subject to policy 2.1.4(a).

**Source Water Protection:** means the action taken to prevent the pollution of drinking water sources, including groundwater, lakes, rivers, and streams. Source water protection includes developing and implementing a plan which may include the management of land uses and potential contaminants. The Province has initiated a strategy to protect Ontario's drinking water from source to tap and has released draft Source Water Protection legislation which if approved, will guide the development and approval of watershed-based source protection plans.

**Special Concern** (formerly "vulnerable"): means those species which have characteristics that make them particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events.

**Special Policy Area (SPA):** means an area in a community that has historically existed in the flood plain and where strict adherence to certain Province-wide policies pertaining to new development would result in social and economic hardship for the community. As a result, site specific policies are formulated and applied within the defined limits of the Special Policy Area.

**Stable Slope:** means a slope that shows no sign of stress such as tension cracks, localized sloughing, seepage and or creep, or erosion. A stable slope tends to be well vegetated and the ratio of the forces resisting movement over the active forces such as gravity and seepage exceeds 1.5.

**Stable Slope Allowance:** means the angle implemented to buffer development from the hazards of slope instability and to prevent the influence of development on the rate of slope movement. In the absence of detailed geotechnical information, this angle is based on an assumed stable slope gradient of 3 horizontal units to 1 vertical unit (3:1) measured landward from the toe of slope. The term Stable Slope Allowance can be interchanged with the terms “Long Term Angle of Stability” and “Stable Angle of Repose.”

**Stewardship:** means the responsible care of natural resources and wildlife on a watershed basis so that it is preserved for future generations.

**Subwatershed:** means a small watershed or subsection of a watershed, usually a tributary.

**Threatened Species:** means species which are likely to become endangered in Canada if limiting factors are not reversed.

**Toe Erosion Allowance:** means the allowance implemented to buffer development from the hazardous effects of erosion at the base of a slope. The allowance also buffers the natural river processes from the influences of development. This allowance is determined based on the natural river processes.

**Two Zone Approach:** means the approach where certain areas of the flood plain are considered to be less hazardous than others and where development could safely occur. The flood fringe defines the area where development may be permitted subject to appropriate floodproofing. The floodway defines that portion of the flood plain wherein development is prohibited or restricted.

**Valleylands:** means a significant natural area that occurs in a valley or other landform depression that has water flowing through or standing for some period of the year. Natural valleylands refers to valleylands that are generally undisturbed and have natural vegetation cover.

**Valley Top of Slope:** means the break in slope point between the valley side slope and the tableland.

**Watercourse:** means an identifiable depression in the ground in which a flow of water regularly or continuously occurs. A watercourse includes rivers, streams, creeks, swales, ditches and municipal drains

**Watershed:** means all the lands drained by a river or stream and its tributaries.

**Wetland:** means land that

- a) Is seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water, or has a water table close to or at its surface;
- b) Directly contributes to the hydrological function of a watershed through connection with a surface watercourse;
- c) Has hydric soil, the formation of which has been caused by the presence of abundant water; and
- d) Has vegetation dominated by hydrophytic plants or water tolerant plants, the dominance of which has been favoured by the presence of abundant water.

But does not include periodically soaked or wet land that is used for agricultural purposes and no longer exhibits a wetland characteristic referred to in clause c) or d).

**Wet Floodproofing:** means those measures taken to reduce or eliminate the potential for flood hazards to damage a building or structure by allowing water to enter a building with mechanisms to prevent structural damage.

**Wildlife Habitat:** means areas in the natural environment which wildlife depend upon for their survival as self-sustaining populations including land, and water needed for shelter, protection and food supply. Wildlife includes all wild mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes and invertebrates. Areas may include deer yards, nesting areas, aquatic habitat, waterfowl staging areas and habitat of endangered, threatened and vulnerable species.

**Woodlands:** means treed areas that provide environmental and economic benefits such as erosion prevention, water retention, provision of habitat, recreation and the sustainable harvest of woodland products.

## 7.2 COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

BMPs – *Best Management Practices*

CA – *Conservation Authority*

DFO – *Fisheries and Oceans Canada*

EA – *Environmental Assessment*

EIS – *Environmental Impact Study*

HADD – *Harmful Alteration, Disruption, or Destruction*

MMAH – *Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing*

MNR – *Ministry of Natural Resources*

MOE – *Ministry of the Environment*

OMAFRA – *Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs*

PPS – *Provincial Policy Statement*

SWM – *Stormwater Management*

UTRCA – *Upper Thames River Conservation Authority*