

CHAPTER 4 – COMPETITIVE REGION

Section 4.4 Petroleum and Mineral Resources

Known *Petroleum Resources* and *Petroleum Resource Operations*, including wells, are located across areas of the Niagara Region, and are protected for long-term use. Mineral Resources are both metallic and non-metallic *minerals*, but are different from *mineral aggregate resources* identified in Section 4.3 of this Plan. *Mineral deposits* may occur in Niagara region and must be protected for potential extraction. There are no known *Mineral Mining Operations* in Niagara.

4.4.1 Protect the Region’s Mineral Deposits and Petroleum Resources

- 4.4.1.1 Schedule H of this Plan, identifies where petroleum pools are located in Niagara region, according to Provincial mapping.
- 4.4.1.2 *Petroleum resource operations* and any future *Mineral Mining Operations* shall be protected from *development* and activities that would preclude or hinder their expansion or continued use or which would be incompatible for reasons of public health, public safety or environmental impact.
- 4.4.1.3 No development shall occur within 75m of a *petroleum resource operation* unless the *petroleum resource operation* has been decommissioned and rehabilitated in accordance with applicable Provincial regulations and standards.
- 4.4.1.4 Development and activities in known *mineral deposits* or known *petroleum resources* or on adjacent lands which would preclude or hinder the establishment of new operations or access to the resources shall only be permitted if:
 - a) resource use would not be feasible; or

Petroleum Resource Operations

Petroleum Resource Operations is a term that encompasses wells, facilities, and other drilling operations associated with oil, gas, and salt resources.

Over 2000 wells are identified in Niagara Region through provincial mapping. These wells are classified by types, including natural gas wells, storage wells, and dry exploratory holes.

- b) the proposed land use or development serves a greater long-term public interest; and
- c) issues of public health, public safety and environmental impact are addressed.

- 4.4.1.5 Petroleum and mineral resource extraction activities shall be conducted in accordance with the Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act and its regulations and standards, as well as a licence from the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry.
- 4.4.1.6 Any proposal for a new *mineral mining operation* will require an amendment to this Plan.

Oil, Gas, and Salt Resources Act (OGSRA)

The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry regulates *petroleum resources* through the OGSRA and provincial operating standards. This includes all licensing of new wells, and overseeing decommissioning of existing wells.

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