



Norfolk County Office of the Mayor

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES - KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Forestry Farm Road Gas Wells Update

Where We're At:

- After nearly a decade addressing an abandoned gas well on Forestry Farm Road, Norfolk County and the Province have advanced the approach based on a recent groundwater study.
- Previous efforts to “cap” the well failed; new data shows multiple discharge points where gas and water reach the surface due to underground pressure.

Key Recommendations from New Report:

- Install a pressure relief well (est. \$500,000) to control underground pressure.
- Use technology to improve air quality and treat discharged water (est. \$1,000,000).
- Continue site monitoring of groundwater flow and gas emissions.
- Survey other groundwater discharge points in the area.
- Redirect pressure toward the more stable Spanjers Spring area.
- Decommission nearby gas wells via the Abandoned Works Program.
- Install temporary collection system and vacuum degasser for current discharge containment.
- Prevent further erosion at the original site.
- Launch an Environmental Assessment for long-term treatment and discharge solutions.
- Create a technical working group with Norfolk County and multiple Ministries for coordinated long-term response.

What Norfolk is Asking:

- Request coordinated, multi-Ministry collaboration to obtain regulatory approvals and implement the recommended actions.



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Shoreline Erosion Concerns

Where We're At:

- Norfolk has 135 km of Lake Erie shoreline with erosion threatening 33+ properties and critical sites (e.g., Port Dover Water Treatment Plant, Turkey Point, Port Ryerse).
- Norfolk has received Federal funding assistance of \$70K to conduct the next stage of Port Dover WTP Shoreline Planning.
- A 3-phase assessment (2023) developed a risk scoring system, assessed site conditions, and prioritized sites with high-level action plans and rough cost estimates.
- Estimated total repair/preservation cost from 2023 study: \$8,163,000.

What Norfolk is Asking:

- Norfolk's 2024-2033 Capital Plan includes a minimal \$500,000 Shoreline Protection program over 2025–2027, which is a good start but insufficient.
- Request provincial assistance to protect shoreline, ecosystem, geological heritage, residents, and tourism before erosion worsens.