There have been changes to the rules under the Planning Act to support recommendation 14 of the Propane Safety Review which was “the Province should amend planning rules to require municipalities and local appeal bodies to notify facility operators of applications for official plan amendments, plans of subdivision, rezoning and minor variances where the facility’s defined hazard distance extends into the area under consideration for change”.

The Planning Act regulations now require municipal clerks or secretary-treasurers of planning boards, to provide notification to propane operators when specific planning applications are located within the facility’s hazard distance. The intent of this notification requirement is to advise persons who are propane operators of potential land use changes within the hazard distance as established in a risk and safety management plan required by the Propane Storage and Handling Regulation under the Technical Standards and Safety Act (O. Reg. 211/01). Potential land use changes within the hazard distance may result in an increased risk profile and, accordingly, may require a propane operator to institute additional mitigation measures.

The TSSA will forward hazard distance information from a facility’s approved risk and safety management plan when propane facility operators submit their risk and safety management as required under O. Reg. 211/01. A professional engineer is required to prepare the propane operation’s risk and safety management plan. While it is expected that each risk and safety management plan is unique, as a general matter, in order to assist in this process, the following information from a facility’s risk and safety management plan will be forwarded to the relevant municipality.

A drawing shall be in the form of a map or plan (preferably including a topographical map) signed off by a professional engineer which shows:

1. the propane operation including the location and size of the largest vessel and its setback from the front, rear, and side property lines;
2. its associated hazard distance as defined in Advisory FS-155-09;
3. visual indication of hazard distance as a circle (radius = hazard distance) around the largest vessel along with a clear marking of the municipalities* falling within the hazard distance;
4. the address and contact information (municipal clerk or secretary-treasurers of planning board) for each municipality* (including if applicable, both lower- and upper-tier municipalities, e.g., Town of Markham, Region of York) identified in the drawing
5. GIS co-ordinates, property line information, and the location and name of any roads within or abutting the site to properly identify the propane operation’s location, its hazard distance and the municipalities; and
6. A key note to the drawing to indicate the facility’s municipal address, municipal lot number(s) and concession lines as applicable, and the date the drawing was prepared.
* Please note that a facility’s hazard distance may extend into an adjoining municipality. In this situation, the Planning Act regulations require notification by all affected municipalities so a risk and safety management plan will need to identify the municipal name (if applicable, both lower- and upper-tier e.g., Town of Markham, Region of York), municipal address and relevant contacts.

Without this information, the risk and safety management shall be considered incomplete.