

Priority Areas

Priority areas in the watershed were identified and mapped to help inform the development of goals and objectives and to guide future monitoring, planning, and management efforts. Priority areas were defined as areas that are either sources of priority pollutants in the watershed or are most susceptible to changes that would result in increased input of priority pollutants, resulting in degradation of habitat and water quality (Exhibit 55 and 56).

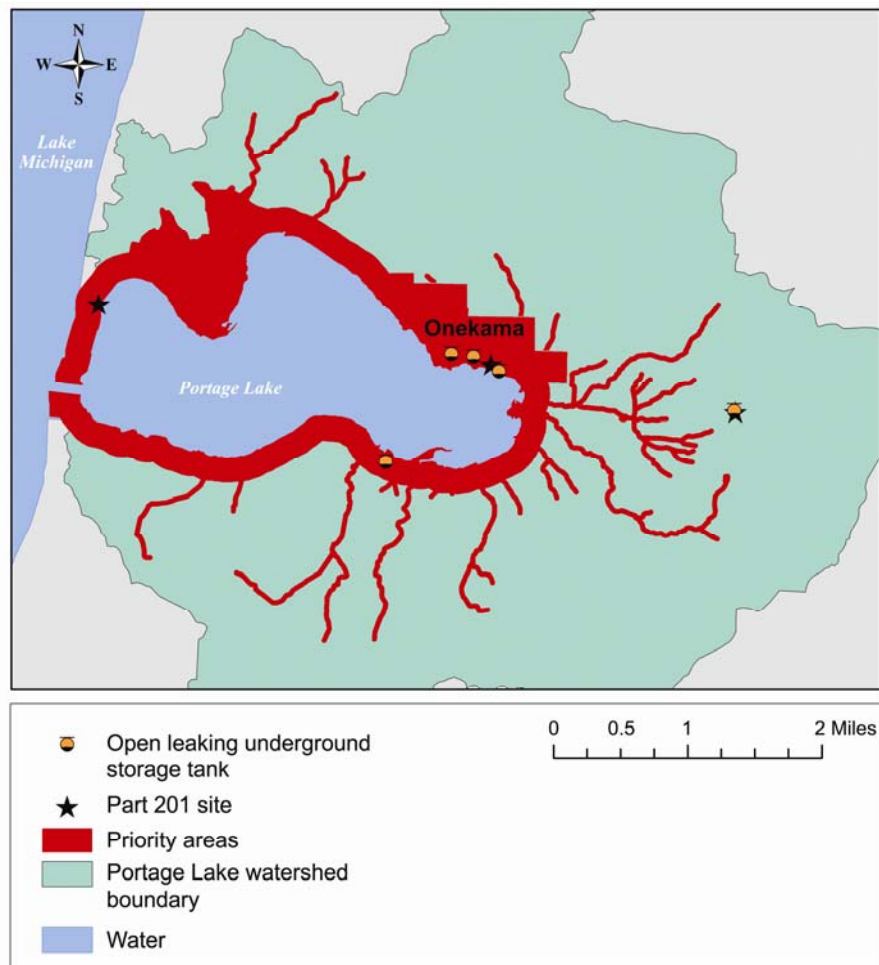
EXHIBIT 55
Priority Areas in the Portage Lake Watershed

Critical Area	Description	Priority Pollutant/Threat
Riparian zone and wetland areas riparian to Portage Lake and tributary streams	1,000ft.-wide zone around entire lake; 100ft.-wide existing vegetated zone on either side of tributary streams; road lake access and stream crossings	Nutrients, sediments, temperature Habitat loss
Non-sewered portion of lake	Entire lake shoreline with exception of Village of Onekama, Little Eden Camp, and a few households in-between with existing or planned sanitary sewers	Human pathogens and nutrients
Storm water discharges	Village of Onekama	Nutrients, sediments, and toxic chemicals
Known sites of environmental contamination	Identified sites within the Portage Lake watershed	Toxic Chemicals

SOURCE: Public Sector Consultants Inc., 2007.

EXHIBIT 56

Map of Priority Areas in the Portage Lake Watershed



SOURCE: Public Sector Consultants Inc., 2007, using data from MDEQ, 2007b and MDIT/CGI (LP Watersheds).

Priority areas were also used to inform the development of the monitoring plan to track trends in pollutant levels in the Portage Lake watershed. Types and locations of monitoring were based on priority pollutants within critical areas. For more information about the monitoring plan and locations of proposed sites, refer to the Monitoring and Evaluation section of this plan.