

Drinking Water Source Protection Overview

Presentation Summary

Drinking Water Source Protection Implementation Forum for the Trent Conservation Source Protection Region

March 8, 2019

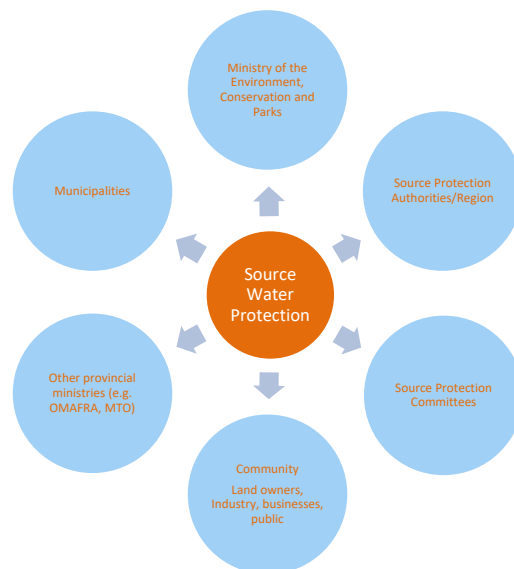
The Trent Conservation Coalition is comprised of five Source Protection Authorities (SPA) that have come together through an agreement to form a Source Protection Region and includes:

- Crowe Valley SPA
- Ganaraska Region SPA
- Kawartha-Haliburton SPA
- Lower Trent SPA
- Otonabee-Peterborough SPA

Under the Clean Water Act and associated regulations, the Source Protection Region must have in place an Assessment Report and a Source Protection Plan. Assessment Reports contain information from technical studies and identify potential threats to sources of municipal drinking water. Source Protection Plans contain policies that address existing and future significant drinking water threats that have been identified. These policies are implemented by municipal and provincial governments and the Source Protection Authorities.

The Trent Conservation Coalition has two Source Protection Plans, the Trent Source Protection Plan and the Ganaraska Source Protection Plan. These plans have been approved by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, a requirement under the Clean Water Act.

Multiple parties are involved with delivering on the source protection program.



In addition, the Trent Conservation Coalition has a Source Protection Committee with 28 members that includes representatives from municipal and provincial government, commercial and industrial sectors, Indigenous communities, and the public. Membership is prescribed through Ontario Regulation 288/07 under the Clean Water Act.

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Highlights of the First Progress Report

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The Trent Conservation Coalition First Progress Report for the Trent and Ganaraska Source Protection Plans provides an update for the first three years of implementation from the effective date of January 1st, 2015 to December 31st, 2017. This report was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) in May 2018.

The table below is an overview of the progress scores for the reporting period of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017

Policy	Trent SPP	Ganaraska SPP
Overall Objectives Achieved	Satisfactory	Progressing Well/On Target
Policy Implementation	Progressing Well/On Target	Progressing Well/On Target
Municipal Progress – Addressing Risk	Satisfactory	Progressing Well/On Target
Septic Inspections	Progressing Well/On Target	Progressing Well/On Target
Risk Management Plans	Progressing Well/On Target	Progressing Well/On Target
Provincial Progress	Progressing Well/On Target	Progressing Well/On Target
Education and Outreach	Progressing Well/On Target	Progressing Well/On Target

As per the Clean Water Act, annual reporting is now in effect and the 2018 Annual Report will be submitted May 2019.

In order to evaluate implementation status and effectiveness, a monitoring component is included for each policy in the source protection plan. Source Protection Authorities receive monitoring information from the implementing bodies. This information is used to develop the Annual Progress Report for submission to the MECP.

Policy Implementation challenges have been identified by municipalities and Risk Management Officials and are currently being reviewed.

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How the Source Protection Program Impacts Municipalities

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Municipalities have a number of responsibilities under the *Clean Water Act*, including implementation of Source Protection Plan Policies, Risk Management, Education and Outreach, Reporting and ensuring that new or changing drinking water systems are protected by their local source protection plan. This presentation will highlight several key municipal responsibilities, and provide examples of processes and tools available to support compliance through collaboration between municipal and source protection staff.

On July 1, 2018 a new regulation under the *Safe Drinking Water Act* and amendments to the General Regulation under the *Clean Water Act* came into effect. As a result, municipal residential drinking water system owners must ensure that Source Protection Authorities are aware of new or changing municipal residential drinking water systems within their source protection area. Updates to local Source Protection Plans may be required as a result of new or changing systems, and the Source Protection Authority plays a role in ensuring that the required information is complete and the Source Protection Plan is updated before drinking water can be provided to the public.

As municipalities receive applications under both the *Planning Act* and the *Building Code Act* they must be screened to determine whether or not they are located within a vulnerable area surrounding a municipal drinking water system. If a portion of the systems' vulnerable area is located on the subject property, it is the responsibility of the municipality's Risk Management Official to review the proposed development to determine whether or not the proposed activity poses a significant drinking water threat and ensure compliance with the Source Protection Plan which may involve the negotiation of a risk management plan. If the proposal does not pose a significant drinking water threat, the Risk Management Official will issue a Notice to Proceed, a Section 59 Notice under the *Clean Water Act*.

As outlined in the *Clean Water Act* and associated General Regulation 287/07, each Source Protection Plan contains policies which require the various implementing bodies to prepare and submit annual reports to the local Source Protection Authority. There are many policies within the Source Protection Plan which the municipality is responsible for implementing, which includes reporting. With the support of the local Source Protection Authority, annual reports are completed each year by the February 1 deadline. This information is used to track progress, identify challenges and ensure compliance with Source Protection Policies, helping to ensure the safety of our municipal drinking water, now and in the future.

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Updates to the Trent and Ganaraska Source Protection Plans & Changes and Future Direction of the Drinking Water Source Protection Program

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The Clean Water Act sets out 4 types of amendments to Source Protection Plans and Assessment Reports.

4 Types of Revisions	Examples
s.34 Amendment (CWA) (SPA Proposes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New/expanded systems• Completion of technical work• e.g., water budgets
s. 35 Order (CWA) (Minister's Order)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minister's discretion• e.g., authority unable to obtain municipal support for amendments
s. 36 Update (CWA) (Mandatory Review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most plan revisions• e.g., new policies, new technical work
s. 51 (O.Reg.287/07) (SPA's Discretion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minor administrative errors• e.g., correction of typos, spelling, etc.

To date Section 51 changes have been made to both the Ganaraska and Trent Source Protection Plans to improve clarity and aid implementation. A Section 34 update was completed for the Trent Source Protection Plan to include 8 water quantity policies for a small area within the municipalities of Uxbridge and Scugog.

A Section 36 work plan was submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks in the fall of 2018. This work plan outlines desired updates based on: updates to the Directors Technical Rules, changes in scientific information and lessons learned from policy implementation. Updates to the Technical Rules include: new liquid hydrocarbon pipeline threat, above and partially below ground handling and storage of fuel in Intake Protection Zones scoring 9 and 10. And the removal of scores of Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas.

Changes in scientific information include Durham Region groundwater modelling, evaluation of current stormwater infrastructure in relation to Intake Protection Zone delineation, consideration of Lake Ontario threats and climate change considerations.

The top policy challenges identified in the 2017 Annual Progress Report were: application of road salt, lack of a threshold for storage of dense non-aqueous phase liquids, lack of a pathogen threshold for agricultural source material and contacting landowners.

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