

Source Protection Committee

MEETING 4 – March 19, 2008 at Rock Haven Motel & Convention Centre, Peterborough

Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 14

Discussion took place on the need to include non-municipal drinking water systems in the Terms of Reference where the municipality had signed Responsibility Agreements with owners. As a result of further consultation with the Province, it was determined that these systems do not need to be included until such time as the Municipality is required to take them over.

Public Meetings

Tentative dates were brought forward for the public meetings required during the development of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the preparation of the Assessment Reports and Source Protection Plans.

- June 11 – Marmora - 2 to 4 PM; Trenton - 6:30 to 8:30 PM
- June 12 – Port Hope - 2 to 4 PM; Peterborough - 6:30 to 8:30 PM
- June 17(or 16) – Haliburton - 2 to 4 PM; Lindsay - 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Some representatives from the SPC may wish to attend these meetings. The SPC will finalize the dates and locations at the April meeting.

Terms of Reference (Work Plan)

a) Municipal Information

Correspondence was sent to all municipalities on January 29 notifying them that work on the ToR was commencing. Specifically, municipalities were asked to provide information regarding:

- interest in undertaking technical or planning work related to their drinking water systems
- interest in elevating 'other' drinking water systems into the scope of source protection planning
- identification of existing municipal residential drinking water systems that will no longer be in service within five years
- identification of planned municipal residential drinking water systems that will come into service during the next five years

To date, responses have been received from 28 municipalities. Conservation Authority staff will follow up with the remaining nine municipalities.

b) Preliminary Terms of Reference

The ToR will identify the following:

- Timelines
- Budget
- Work already done
- Complete list of municipalities, drinking water systems, exempted systems
- Matters that may affect other source protection regions
- Consideration of Great Lakes agreements

A preliminary draft will be presented at the next meeting; following the May meeting it will be ready for public review.

Upcoming Meetings/Presentations

March 31 – Alderville First Nation

March 28 – Region of Durham (upper & lower tier)

April 1– Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen

Municipal Working Groups

Comments on the working group terms of reference will be brought forward to the SPC once the Kawartha-Haliburton Working Group meeting has been held.

Watershed Characterization

Watershed characterization is the first step in the development of the Assessment Report. Conservation authorities have been preparing Watershed Characterization Reports over the past 3 years. Based on existing data, the reports provide a comprehensive overview of the watershed. Six reports have been prepared: Crowe Valley; Ganaraska Region, Kawartha, Gull & Burnt Rivers, Lower Trent and Otonabee/north Peterborough County. There is a common table of contents for all six reports which include:

- executive summary
- introduction,
- physical, natural and cultural features
- water uses and ecological needs
- water quality
- description of vulnerable areas
- existing threats inventories
- summary of identified issues and concerns
- conclusions and next steps
- data & knowledge gaps (under appendices)

The six reports will be brought forward to the committee over the next few months for their review/acceptance as background reports for the Assessment Reports. These reports will be submitted to the Province in April.

An overview of the Otonabee-Peterborough Source Protection Area was provided by Don Greer, Otonabee Conservation.

Other Discussion

Consultation is currently underway on septic inspection requirements. This is driven by the Clean Water Act and proposed to be embedded in the Ontario Building Code. Check: www.obc.mah.gov.on.ca/Page2994.aspx

Discussion took place about how threats of uranium mining would fit into the work plan. While the mining of uranium is under federal jurisdiction, uranium would be considered if it is identified as an issue.

Recent headlines suggest pharmaceuticals in drinking water could be an emerging issue.

Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council (ODWAC) is holding public consultation meetings next week (March 26 & 27) regarding the current standard for Tritium in drinking water. ODWAC provides advice to the Minister of the Environment on drinking water standards, legislation, regulations and issues.

http://www.odwac.gov.on.ca/standards_review/tritium/tritium_consultation.htm

Next Meeting

April 17, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, 99 Glen Miller Road, Trenton from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Meeting dates were set for the rest of the year: September 4, October 2, November 25.

Following the meeting, SPC members were invited to proceed to the Peterborough Water Treatment Plant for a tour of the facility with Wayne Stiver.

www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca