

Source Protection Committee

MEETING 15 – MARCH 13 at Super 8 Motel, Peterborough

Letter of Request for Assessment Report Extension

Based on the review of the technical work plan from the last meeting, a letter to the Minister of the Environment has been prepared requesting a 6 month extension of the deadline for the completion of the Assessment Reports.

Quarterly Report from the Chair

Once the Terms of Reference for the preparation of an assessment report and source protection plan have been approved under the Clean Water Act, Ontario Regulation 288/07 requires the SPC Chair to submit quarterly reports to the Source Protection Authorities within the Region. The reports will provide an update on the status of each major task identified in the Terms of Reference documents. The first quarterly report was reviewed by the SPC which included updates under the following headings:

- Coordinating and Supporting Projects for the Assessment Report
- Undertaking Communications Initiatives for the Assessment Report
- Information Management for the Assessment Report
- Undertaking a Watershed Characterization
- Water Budgets
- Landscape Scale Vulnerability Assessment/Issues/Threats
- Municipal Systems - Surface Water Vulnerability & Threats
- Municipal Systems - Groundwater Vulnerability & Threats
- Peer Review of Vulnerability Studies
- Consultation on Overall Proposed Assessment Report
- Revise/Update Assessment Report
- Preparation of Source Protection Plan

Drinking Water Issues

Janet Noyes and Gary Martin of XCG Consultants provided an overview of the work underway for the identification of drinking water issues related to both groundwater (14 municipal systems) and surface water (10 Trent River/Bay of Quinte) drinking water systems. The steps undertaken to complete the work includes:

- Assemble water quality data
- Review of water quality data as defined in Technical Rule 114 (Primary Benchmark)
- Evaluate drinking water issues using qualitative approach (Secondary Benchmark – trends)
- Identify area within the vulnerable area where contributing threats have been identified (if possible)
- List drinking water issues, according to Technical Rule 115

Lake Ontario Collaborative

A summary of the Lake Ontario Collaborative was provided by Mark Peacock. There are 21 municipal systems being studied through the Collaborative within five Source Protection Regions around Lake Ontario. There are three municipal systems located within the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region – Port Hope, Cobourg and Newcastle.

Examples of some of the risks that could potentially impact the drinking water drawn from Lake Ontario include: upstream tributary discharges from storm events or spills and lake-side activities from direct discharges or spills (e.g. wastewater treatment, stormwater, nuclear plants, industrial activities).

Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas

Shan Mugalingam outlined the preliminary work completed by the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition to delineate Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas. Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas are areas in which there is a high volume of water moving from the surface into the ground, and that serve as a source of drinking water.

Consultation on the Future of the Stewardship Program

The Committee agreed to forward the results of the four break out groups from the last meeting to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). As well, the responses to the MOE questionnaire provided by the five municipal working groups will also be forwarded to the Ministry.

Municipal Working Group Update

The five municipal working groups have met over the past month to review the status on the municipal technical studies and the requirements and timelines for the completion of the Assessment Report. The working groups also reviewed this year's funding details for the Stewardship program. They also provided feedback on the future of the Stewardship program by responding to the MOE questionnaire.

Committee Members – Updates on public engagement/conferences

- Wayne Stiver will be attending the Ontario Water Works Association/Ontario Municipal Water Association Trade Show on April 3 to 6 which will include sessions on source protection and climate change.
- Bev Spencer made a presentation to the Dairy Farmers of Hastings County which focused on Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program. She provided MOE questionnaires to those in attendance.
- Edgar Cornish provided a source protection update to the Peterborough County Landowners Association. The group wanted clarification on when will people will be contacted if their property is affected by municipal drinking water threats.

Next Meeting: April 21, 2009 at the Town Park Recreation Centre, 62 McCaul Street, Port Hope