

Working with Other Government Agencies

Working with the Federal Government

This information sheet serves to provide guidance and direction to Source Protection Committee (SPC) Chairs on working with other government agencies. There are information sheets for each level of government -municipal, provincial government, federal government, First Nations and other jurisdictions (Quebec/United States). Each information sheet offers direction/advice on working with different government agencies in relation to preparing the terms of reference (TOR), the assessment report (AR) and the source protection plan (SPP).

Introduction

The Ministry of the Environment is currently in discussions with Environment Canada as the lead federal department to determine the level of support and contact names Environment Canada can provide for a range of departments to the source protection planning process. Therefore this information sheet reflects where we see possible interactions; however this is yet to be confirmed. A Provincial Liaison Officer will update the committee on the progress and provide contact names within the appropriate Federal branches once they have been established.

The Provincial Liaison Officer for each region can facilitate or lead discussions between the source protection committees and the source protection authorities and the federal government in terms of dealing with federal lands within a source protection area or region.

Terms of Reference

Where First Nations' systems are included in a TOR the Provincial Liaison Officer will support discussions with appropriate First Nations, provincial and federal representatives to discuss work planning as requested.

Assessment Report

Ontario Region – Environment Canada is a science-based government department. They have some expertise and data to support the science necessary to define vulnerable areas, and to identify threats and issues in particular in the Great Lakes and their connecting channels.

Environment Canada has a Great Lakes website: <http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/greatlakes/>

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Environment Canada staff could be involved by:

- Participating on technical teams
- Allowing access to existing hydrodynamic models and data on the Great Lakes
- Providing peer review

In relation to Federal lands and activities associated with its use, the Provincial Liaison Officer can support discussions between the source protection committee and the federal government as requested.

Environment Canada's website (http://www.ec.gc.ca/water/en/info/misc/e_data.htm) has numerous data and information, some of which includes:

- Links to the Municipal Water and Wastewater Survey, Municipal Water Use and Pricing Survey, the Water Efficiency Database, Water Survey of Canada
- RésEau provides access and use of water information over the Internet. There is a water use calculator, you can search for water information, and create a map of your local watershed (depending on the location).

Source Protection Plan

As a land owner the Federal government should be invited to provide input on the policies to address any activities that have to be addressed in the SPP.

The CWA requires that SPPs consider certain Great Lakes agreements and, for agreements in which Canada makes commitments (*Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement*, and Canadian commitments in the *Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem*) Environment Canada or other responsible agencies may be invited to share expertise and advice.

If the Minister sets a Great Lakes target and the committee is developing Great Lakes policies to help meet that target, a process which involves public consultation, then Environment Canada should also be offered the opportunity to provide input.