

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program

Early Response (Update on Program Development)

May 2010

Update to Source Protection Committee: Glenda Rodgers and Meredith Carter



Background

- Late 2008, MOE began review of Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP) to better align program with assessment report data and stakeholder needs.
- SPC Chairs undertook consultations in early 2009. Recommendations from stakeholders included:
 - Local decision-making for allocation of funds
 - Target prescribed drinking water threats
 - Ensure a simple application and delivery process
- Fall 2009, the Minister approved a strategic shift in the ODWSP, called **Early Response**, that will address stakeholder recommendations.

Background (cont.)

- Stakeholders raised requests for:
 - Funding for the purchase of land around wellheads
 - Funding for small municipal infrastructure upgrades
- The Minister agreed that land purchase by municipalities could be eligible under the Special Projects component of the 2010-11 ODWSP
- A decision on ODWSP funding for small municipal infrastructure was deferred

Early Response - Objectives

- Objective of the new **Early Response** component under the ODWSP is to ensure funds are prioritized to address the greatest risks to drinking water sources and are available as affected landowners are identified
- Early Response similar to Early Actions model. Funding is provided to Lead CAs in SPRs through a transfer payment agreement. Funding provided to:
 - administer an Early Response incentive program
 - financially assist landowners that volunteer to carry out projects
 - address significant drinking water threats identified in assessment reports

Early Response - Scope

1. Early Response funds will be targeted to projects that address significant drinking water threats identified in assessment reports (conditions, activities)
2. Eligible applicants will include:
 - Landowners
 - Farmers
 - Small- and medium-sized businesses (less than 500 total employees)
 - Small municipalities (i.e. population of 20,000 or less)
 - Others as prioritized by the SPC
3. Timing:
 - Financial assistance under Early Response Program can be offered at draft proposed assessment report stage, when AR posted for public comment
 - Funds can be offered up until SPPs are prepared (Aug 2012)

Early Response - Scope (cont.)

4. Eligible Projects:

- Risk management measures in the ministry's Provincial Risk Management Measures Catalogue related to a significant threat (may limit types of measures)
- Actions set out in an Interim Risk Management Plan related to an identified significant threat, provided they are listed in the Catalogue
- Early Actions type project – must use Early Actions funds if available
- Grant rate for a single project must be less than \$100,000 under Early Response
- Where >\$100,000 is requested, the landowner can apply for Special Projects funding

Early Response - Delivery Model

Stage 1 – Lead SPA Application to ODWSP

SPC Provides Direction on Priorities:

- Prior to making application, lead CA will seek direction from the SPC on prioritization of significant threats identified in the draft proposed assessment report to be addressed by the Early Response Program.
- SPCs will prioritize significant threats for the Early Response Program based on:
 - Significant threats that present the highest risks
 - Significant threats that can be expected to be addressed in the near term through a voluntary funding assistance program, prior to plans being in place
 - Other criteria?

Early Response - Delivery Model

Stage 1 – Lead SPA Application to ODWSP

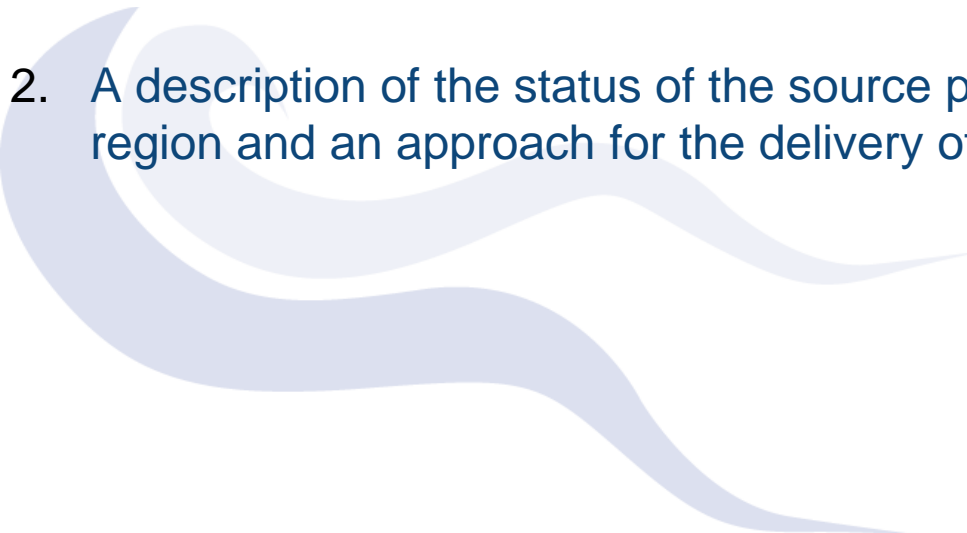
SPC Direction on Priorities (cont.):

- Funding should primarily be directed toward private landowners (residential, farm), small and medium businesses and small municipalities.
- Where an SPC decides it is warranted and appropriate, and in keeping with the principles set out by the Advisory Panel on the ODWSP, Early Response funding may be directed toward medium or large municipalities or large businesses. Rationale must be documented.

Early Response - Delivery Model

Stage 1 – Lead SPA Application to ODWSP

SPA Applications for Early Response Funds to include:

1. A summary of direction received from the local SPC with respect to prioritization of significant threats to be addressed
 2. A description of the status of the source protection planning process for the region and an approach for the delivery of the Early Response Program
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Early Response - Delivery Model

Stage 1 – Lead SPA Application to ODWSP

3. A description of how measures and costs were estimated

 4. A detailed description of the program delivery model including:
 - Landowner contact and application submission process
 - Application review and approval process
 - Funding award administration process
 - Program management, monitoring and reporting
 - Communications plan
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Early Response - Delivery Model

Stage 2 – Local Application Process

- Landowners will apply to lead CA for funds to carry out eligible projects
- SPAs, through application review committees review and make decisions on all applications from landowners
- The SPA will have responsibility for its program, including:
 - Application review committee roles and responsibilities
 - Liaising with landowners who want to take action
 - Administration of landowner application process
 - Decision-making process
 - Reporting on program to the province

Next Steps – Proposed Program Rollout

- Early Response Program launch officially announced – May 2010
- Ministry prepares Early Response program materials (Application Form and guidance) in consultation with CO and CAs – April/May 2010
- Ministry to seek expressions of interest in delivering an Early Response Program from CA General Managers – May/June 2010
- Issue Application Form to lead CAs– July 2010
- Post Special Projects Request for Grant Proposals – July 2010
- Application Period closes end of September 2010
- Ministry reviews applications and makes decisions on Early Response and Special Projects funding – December 2010