

Source Protection Committee

MEETING 12 – NOVEMBER 25 at Dalewood Golf & Curling Club, Cobourg

Submission of Proposed Terms of Reference (ToR)

Correspondence received included letters from each of the five SPAs indicating their approval of the Proposed ToR for submission to the Minister of the Environment. In addition, a letter was received from the Lower Trent SPA on behalf of the five SPAs complimenting the Committee on the successful completion of the documents.

Property Entry Training

Section 88 of the *Clean Water Act* details the powers of entry granted for the purpose of collecting information for the preparation of an assessment report or source protection plan. Anyone entering a property must be accredited with training approved by the Director and completed within the last 5 years (or be accompanied by a person with the training). Conservation Authority, municipal staff & consultants are taking the 3-day course.

It is stressed that a person is not permitted to enter a dwelling without consent and that exercising the powers of entry under the *Clean Water Act* should be a last resort. Involving landowners in a manner that encourages positive relationships will be the key to success. The focus of the training was geared to the collection of information for the preparation of the assessment report. The training is not intended to address any aspect of enforcement that may be required once the Source Protection Plans are completed.

Assessment Report Regulations/Technical Rules

Regulations and Technical Rules primarily associated with the development of the Assessment Report were posted on the EBR on Thursday November 20 (www.ebr.gov.on.ca). Previous Regulations (Terms of Reference, Miscellaneous, Time Limits) have been combined into a General Regulation with Assessment Report & Definitions added to it. The current Regulations are:

- Areas and Regions
- Source Protection Committee
- Service of Documents
- General (287/07)
 - *Terms of Reference*
 - *Miscellaneous*
 - *Time Limits*
 - *Assessment Report*
 - *Definitions of Words and Expressions*

The General Regulation addresses items including record retention, information required in the assessment report, consultation requirements and the process for updating assessment reports after first approval.

The Technical Rules identified some alterations from previous Guidance documents and proposed Technical Rules provided by the Province including:

- Watershed Characterization – additional information requirements identified
- Other Systems identified in the ToR – revised methodology for identifying vulnerable areas
- Intake Protection Zones – minor changes to the delineation
- Great Lakes Intakes – changes in method to identify IPZ3 and significant threats
- Significant Threats – ability of SPC to lower threshold was removed

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- Water Quality Issues – flexibility has been given in identifying issues
- Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas –hydrological connection to a surface water body or aquifer which is the source for a drinking water system has been added
- Tier 3 Water Budget – revised definitions

Work Program Progress

The work program was reviewed regarding the progress to date and what yet needs to be completed to various elements that will become part of the Assessment Report including:

- Watershed Characterization
- Conceptual & Tier 1 Water Budgets
- Tier 2 Water Budget
- Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas
- Highly Vulnerable Aquifers
- Wellhead Protection Area Vulnerability & Threats and Issues Identification
- Intake Protection Zone Vulnerability & Threats and Issues Identification
- GIS Mapping/Information Management

The work to date has been undertaken based on Guidance documents/draft Technical Rules provided by the Province. Additional work is now required to the projects outlined above to meet the requirements of the new Technical Rules.

The Assessment Report must be completed within one year of the approval of the ToR. It is anticipated that the Minister will be approving the ToR within 90 days of their submission. The major steps include:

- Prepare Draft Assessment Report
- Public consultation, notification, public meetings
- Submit Proposed Assessment Report
- Additional Public Consultation
- Submission to the Minister

As the timelines will be challenging, staff will provide a more comprehensive overview of the schedule for completion at the next SPC meeting.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

- Green mini-Expo highlighting stewardship opportunities available to landowners – Nov. 29 in Little Britain (9:30 -12:30 AM); Dec. 4 in Port Perry (6 to 9 PM)
- SPC Training Session on final Assessment Report Regulations & Technical Rules – Dec.1 in Uxbridge

Committee Members – Updates on public engagement/conferences

- Bobbie Drew: Community Forum: Water – Our Precious Resource, Port Perry, November 18, 2008
- KRCA: Green Expo in Little Britain on November 29th and December 4th in Port Perry
- Rosemary Kelleher-Maclennan: The Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Advisory Panel
- Mary Smith, Terry Rees, Gerald McGregor and Meredith Carter: State of the Kawartha Lakes Workshop.
- Wayne Stiver: Our Water, Our Future, November 13, 2008, Trent University at Holiday Inn in Peterborough.
- Jim Hunt: November 28th Presentation to the Association of Professional Engineers Ontario at Fleming College in Peterborough.

Presentations

Overviews were provided on bacteria indicators for water quality in rural wells (Mary Jane Conboy) and various approaches to municipal drinking water treatment (Wayne Stiver).

The SPC toured the Port Hope Water Treatment Plant following the meeting.

Next Meeting: January 14, 2008 at the Super 8 Motel in Peterborough

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