

The Source Protection **Toolbox**

The goal of a Source Protection Plan is to manage or eliminate existing activities that are, or could become, significant drinking water threats. In most circumstances, property owners will be able to manage significant threats to reduce the risk and allow the activity to continue.

The *Clean Water Act* provides several tools to accomplish the goal. The Source Protection Committee will work with municipalities, businesses, landowners and other stakeholders to decide which combination of tools will work best in local circumstances.



Land Use Planning

Municipalities use zoning bylaws and official plans to direct new development to appropriate areas. These planning documents could be changed to prohibit or restrict new development in highly vulnerable areas that would create new significant threats. For example, a municipality might ban new waste disposal sites near municipal wells, or chemical storage facilities just upstream from a river intake. Policies could be general or name specific *Planning Act* tools like zoning by-laws or site plan controls.

Risk Management Plans

A risk management plan is site specific and locally negotiated between the municipal official and the person engaged in the threat after the source protection plan is approved. The plan would impact the current landowner. A new plan would be negotiated with a future owner as long as the activity continues.

Protective or safety measures can reduce the risk posed by a significant threat. For example, a business or farm that stores chemicals or fuel could develop a spill response program or install alternate storage containers. The risk management plan would take into consideration current practices which have been implemented to decrease risk.

Prescribed Instruments

A “prescribed instrument” is a permit or other legal document issued by the provincial government allowing an activity to take place. Some examples include:

- permits under the *Pesticides Act*
- licences under the *Aggregate Act*
- Nutrient Management Plans under the *Nutrient Management Act*
- Certificates of Approval for sewage systems under the *Ontario Water Resources Act*

These instruments usually contain provisions to protect human health and the environment. Source protection plan policies could be general or prescriptive. A general policy would require the prescribed instrument to be examined and amended, if necessary, to ensure an activity ceases to be a significant threat. A prescriptive policy could outline specific content in the prescribed instrument.

Prohibition

A Source Protection Plan could prohibit certain activities in vulnerable areas to prevent new significant threats from developing in the future. For existing significant threats, this tool would only be used as a last resort.

Restricted Land Uses

Conditions could be placed on planning applications or building permits in vulnerable areas to limit the establishment or expansion of activities that could create a significant threat in the future. This tool can be used as an administrative tool to help municipalities determine what types of development to allow and which could not take place. It can be seen as an early warning system to avoid inadvertently approving applications or permits for activities that would conflict with other source protection plan policies.

Incentive Programs

Financial incentives could be offered to landowners to address significant threats on their property. Such programs can act as a compliment to all threats or a group of threats, or to address any specific drinking water threat.

Education and Outreach

Programs could educate property owners about how to manage a significant threat on their property. Such programs can act as a compliment to all threats or a group of threats, or to address any specific drinking water threat.

Other Approaches

Some other possible tools that could be included in a source protection plan include stewardship programs, promotion of best management practices, pilot programs to investigate new approaches to protecting water, and research initiatives.



Developing policies to address threats to municipal drinking water supplies ...

The Province has identified a list of activities that can be considered drinking water threats. The Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Committee has begun to develop draft source protection policies to address these threats as they were identified in the Assessment Reports. They include:

- General Policies
- Sewage Threat Policies
- Agriculture Threat Policies (including use of pesticides and fertilizers, pasture grazing/outdoor confinement areas, agricultural source material)
- Non-Agricultural Source Material Threat Policies
- Road Salt Threat Policies
- Fuel Threat Policies
- Dense Non-Aqueous Liquid & Organic Solvents Threat Policies
- Management of Runoff from Aircraft De-icing Threat Policies
- Waste Disposal Threat Policies
- Snow Storage Threat Policies
- Local Threat Policies (Congregation of Waterfowl, Pipeline Rupture)

During Fall 2011, the Source Protection Committee will be gathering feedback from municipalities and agencies who have been identified as having a role in implementing the proposed policies. To obtain broader public input, two consultation periods will occur early in 2012. The Source Protection Plan must be completed by August 20, 2012.

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