



To: Municipal and County CAOs and Clerks
Chief Medical Officers of Health
Cataraqui Source Protection Area

Date: July 21, 2010

From: John C. Williamson, Chair, Cataraqui Source Protection Committee
Rob McRae, Project Manager, Source Water Protection

Files: SPP 5-1, 6, 8

RE: DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION UPDATE

We are writing with several updates about the ongoing drinking water source protection program in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area. It has been a busy period of work for the Cataraqui Source Protection Committee (SP Committee) and the staff team at the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA).

Please share this update with your Council / Board of Health. This update serves as a notice under Section 16 of the Ontario *Clean Water Act, 2006* (proposed assessment report) and Section 19(1) of Regulation 287/07 under the *Act* (commencement of source protection plan). The forthcoming source protection plan may have policy, program, and financial implications for municipalities and public health units, and your involvement in the process is important.

Proposed Assessment Report Posted

A “proposed” version of the Assessment Report for the Cataraqui area was submitted today to the Cataraqui Source Protection Authority (SP Authority). It is also now posted for 30 days of public review and comment at www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca. A DVD copy of the report is enclosed for your reference.

The Assessment Report describes the state of our local source water, and the activities and conditions that pose a risk to its quality and quantity. This version reflects our response to about 125 comments that were made about the earlier “draft” version, including comments from the City of Kingston and Loyalist Township. A table that summarizes our response to each comment is posted with the document on the website.

Comments on the Proposed Assessment Report are invited until **Friday August 20, 2010**, to the attention of:

Cataraqui Source Protection Authority
c/o
Rob McRae MCIP, RPP
Project Manager, Source Water Protection
Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
1641 Perth Road, P.O. Box 160
Glenburnie ON K0H 1S0
robmcr@cataraquiregion.on.ca

All comments received by the SP Authority must be submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE). While the legislated process dictates that further changes cannot be made to the document at this time, the SP Authority and SP Committee can provide a letter to the Ministry on how comments could be addressed in the future. The SP Committee intends to consult on and publish an updated assessment report in 2011.

Local Drinking Water Threats Types Approved

The MOE recently approved the following activities as ‘local’ types of drinking water threats that can be considered in the Cataraqui area:

- The release of conditioning salt backwash from a water softener (outside of a septic system or a municipal storm or sanitary sewer);
- The transport of dense non-aqueous phase liquids, fuels, organic solvents, and pesticides along corridors such as highways, railways, and shipping lanes.

The SP Committee had requested that these activities be included in our scope of work. CRCA staff are now conducting research on them, within detailed parameters that have been prescribed by the Ministry. Related findings will be included by the SP Committee in the updated assessment report.

Ontario Regulation 287/07 Amended

Amendments to Regulation 287/07 under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* came into effect on July 1st. A majority of the amendments set parameters for the preparation of source protection plans. A consolidated version of the regulation is now available at http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_070287_e.htm.

The following are some key points of interest:

- The primary focus of the plans will be addressing significant drinking water threats that are identified in an assessment report; moderate and low-ranked threats may also be addressed;
- While a range of policy tools is available for use, the mandatory approaches are reserved for significant drinking water threats;
- Policies regarding climate monitoring and spill prevention / response may be included in a source protection plan;
- The rationale for each policy must be outlined in a publicly-accessible explanatory document;
- Consultation on each proposed source protection plan must include two posting periods and a public meeting. In addition, source protection committees must consult directly with municipalities and others regarding proposed policies that relate to their jurisdiction.

Source Protection Plan Underway

We are pleased to announce the commencement of work on the source protection plan for the Cataraqui area. The SP Committee will collaborate with municipalities and public health units in preparing the plan. We will also work closely with the other source protection committees in eastern Ontario. Our intent is to develop policies that are effective, appropriate, and economic for local communities.

The proposed plan is due to be submitted by August 2012 to the Minister of the Environment for approval. Our first phase of work during summer and fall 2010 will involve research on policy alternatives. The second phase will commence in winter 2011; it will involve a series of facilitated roundtable events in local communities. At the roundtables we will seek input on the best ways to keep our water clean and plentiful for the future. Municipal and public health officials will be invited to those events, and we hope that you will be able to participate. More information about the plan preparation will be provided later this year.

Thank you for your ongoing assistance with local drinking water source protection activities. For more information, we invite you to visit our website at www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca or to contact Rob McRae at (613) 546-4228 ext. 224, or via email at robmcr@cataraquiregion.on.ca.

Yours truly,

(original signed by)

John C. Williamson
Chair, Cataraqui Source Protection Committee

(original signed by)

Rob McRae MCIP, RPP
Project Manager, Source Water Protection

Attachment: Proposed Assessment Report: Cataraqui Source Protection Area (July 2010)(DVD copy)

c.c: Municipal Representatives, Cataraqui Source Protection Committee
Cataraqui Source Protection Authority
(via e-mail; Municipal Engineers and Planners, Cataraqui Source Protection Area
(letter only) Adjacent Source Protection Regions