

Source Protection Annual Progress Report

I. Introduction

This annual progress report outlines the progress made in implementing our source protection plan for the Credit Valley, Toronto and Region, and the Central Lake Ontario Source Protection Areas, as required by the Clean Water Act and regulations. Together, these source protection areas comprise the CTC Source Protection Region. Protecting the sources of our drinking water is the first step in Ontario's multi-barrier approach to safeguard the quality and quantity of our drinking water supplies.

The source protection plan is the culmination of extensive science-based assessment, research, consultation with the community, and collaboration with local stakeholders and the Province. When policies in the plan are implemented it ensures that activities carried out in the vicinity of municipal wells and lake-based intakes will not pose significant risk to those drinking water supplies.



II. A message from your local Source Protection Committee

- P : Progressing Well/On Target – The majority of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.**
- S : Satisfactory – Some of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.
- L : Limited progress – A few of source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.

All stakeholders responsible for the implementation of policies in the source protection plan are required to report on their activities during the previous calendar year.

The CTC Source Protection Committee is of the opinion that implementation is progressing well and policies are being implemented within the timelines identified in the source protection plan. Further, the committee considers the actions being taken by stakeholder to be achieving the objectives of the Clean Water Act.

III. Our Watershed

To learn more, please read our assessment reports and source protection plan.

The CTC Source Protection Region contains 25 large and small watersheds and spans over 10,000 km², from the Oak Ridges Moraine in the north to Lake Ontario in the south. The region contains portions of the Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine, Greenbelt, Lake Ontario, and the most densely populated area of Canada. The CTC Source Protection Region includes 25 local municipalities and eight single tier, regional or county municipalities, 66 municipal supply wells, and 16 municipal surface water intakes on Lake Ontario.

The region is complex and diverse in terms of geology, physiography, population, and development pressures. There are many, often conflicting, water uses including, drinking water supply, recreation, irrigation, agriculture, commercial and industrial uses, and ecosystem needs.

IV. At a Glance: Progress on Source Protection Plan Implementation

1. Source Protection Plan Policies

P: Progressing Well/On Target

The CTC Source Protection Committee included 165 policies in their source protection plan to address 21 prescribed threats, two local threats, actions considered necessary to protect sources of drinking water, and policies for monitoring implementation. Some policies are required to be implemented by one stakeholder, while others are to be implemented by many.

At the end of the third year of implementation 88% of legally binding policies, addressing significant drinking water threats have been implemented, and 5% of these policies are in the process of being implemented.

2. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

There are 21 municipalities in CTC Source Protection Region that have vulnerable areas where significant drinking water threat policies apply. The majority of the municipalities in our source protection region have processes in place to ensure that their day-to-day planning decisions conform with our source protection plan.

Municipalities in our source protection region also are required to take the next step to review and update their Official Plan to ensure it conforms with the local source protection plan the next time they undertake an Official Plan review under the Planning Act. The CTC Source Protection Plan contains land use planning policies to address significant, moderate, and low drinking water threats. Therefore, all municipalities in the region will need to complete this exercise.

As of December 2018, 21 of the 33 municipalities have amended or are in the process of amending their Official Plan to conform with the source protection plan for our region.

3. Septic Inspections

P: Progressing Well/On Target

In the CTC Source Protection Region, septic systems are next required to be inspected by January 2022. In 2018, 100% of on-site sewage systems that were required to be inspected, in accordance with the Ontario Building Code, were completed. Inspections found that all systems inspected in 2018 are functioning as designed or carrying out required pump-outs.

4. Risk Management Plans

P: Progressing Well/On Target:

In 2018, 32 risk management plans were established in our source protection region. Since our source protection plan took effect, a total of 63 risk management plans have been established.

There were 54 inspections carried out by a risk management inspector for prohibited or regulated activities. In 2018, there was a 100% compliance rate with risk management plans and prohibited activities that were inspected.

5. Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P: Progressing Well/On Target:

Ontario ministries are reviewing previously issued provincial approvals (i.e., prescribed instruments, such as environmental compliance approvals under the Environmental Protection Act) where they have been identified as a tool in our plan to address existing activities that pose a significant risk to sources of drinking water. The provincial approvals are being amended or revoked where necessary to conform with plan policies. Our policies set out a timeline of three years (December 2018) to complete the review and make any necessary changes. The ministries have completed this review for 100% of previously issued provincial approvals in the CTC Source Protection Region.

6. Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

Municipalities and conservation authorities within the CTC Source Protection Region have been working with landowners and business owners to increase the awareness of source protection planning and the value of safeguarding our sources of drinking water. The end of 2017 was the date required for implementation of education and outreach policies in the source protection plan. All municipalities in the region have established such programs, which, in time, is expected to further enhance knowledge and awareness of source protection.

Three Drinking Water Protection signs have been posted on roadways in the CTC Source Protection Region.

7. Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delays

In the annual reports submitted to the CTC Source Protection Region, implementation was largely reported as progressing well and on-target. However, the CTC Source Protection Committee raised concern with the implementation of Lake Ontario (LO) policies and feel it is necessary for the municipalities and the Province to collaborate on addressing the multiple facets of the policies.

8. Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

Fourteen (14) drinking water issues have been identified at four (4) drinking water systems in our source protection region.

Orangeville Drinking Water System (5 wells) Issues: Sodium, Chloride
Inglewood Drinking Water System (1 well) Issue: Pathogens
Acton Drinking Water System (2 wells) Issue: Nitrates
Georgetown Drinking Water System (3 wells) Issue: Chloride

For these drinking water systems, the source protection plan requires that the municipality establish more frequent raw water quality monitoring to further characterize this data and determine the impact of policies established to manage potential threats contributing to these increased values. This information can be accessed by contacting the local municipality.

Since these monitoring initiatives have only recently been established, there is insufficient data to be able to discern the impact of source protection plan policies on activities which may contribute to these concentrations.

9. Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans

No work plans were required to be implemented for our assessment reports.

10. More from the Watershed

For more information about source protection implementation in the CTC Source Protection Region please see our story map, which is available on our website: <https://ctcswp.ca/>