

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

ACT FOR CLEAN WATER

HALTON-HAMILTON
SOURCE PROTECTION
REGION

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

June 15, 2011

City of Hamilton
Clerk's Counter
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Sir/Madam:

RE: Notice of Commencement Under Ontario Regulation 287/07 Preparation of Drinking Water Source Protection Plans

This letter is to notify you that the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee has begun preparing **Source Protection Plans** under the *Clean Water Act* to address threats to the sources of water for the municipal drinking water supplies in your area.

Source Protection Plans will build on the science of now-completed Assessment Reports. The Assessment Reports identify vulnerable areas where activities could impact the quality and/or the quantity of the water reaching the municipal wells or lake intakes. The risk to the water supplies has been assessed and threats ranked at low, moderate or significant levels.

According to provincial law, Source Protection Committees must develop policies to address significant threats. This policy development process is now starting.

Background

The *Clean Water Act* was passed in 2006 as a result of the Walkerton water crisis in 2000. This *Act* requires communities across Ontario to establish Source Protection Committees to develop science-based plans to protect drinking water at the source, before it even reaches municipal treatment plants. Following provincial government approval, municipalities will implement these source water protection policies to reduce risk in areas that are 'vulnerable' to contamination. Source protection is a key component of a multi-barrier approach designed to safeguard Ontario's drinking water and human health.

Source Protection Plans

The Plans will:

1. Propose measures to protect water sources from current activities in the vulnerable areas that might contaminate our municipal drinking water.
2. Propose measures to prevent any future activities in these vulnerable areas that may contaminate our municipal drinking water.
3. Include policies that are strategic in nature on such topics as spill prevention and water conservation.

The committee has a number of "tools" when developing policies. These include:

- Education and outreach about activities that could result in a significant threat;
- Incentive programs;
- Provincial instruments, such as certificates of approval and nutrient management plans;
- Risk management plans negotiated with the landowner;
- Restriction or prohibition of activities; or
- Combination of the above.

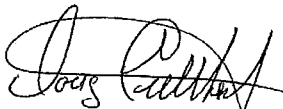
Over the course of the next year, the Source Protection Committee will develop the Source Protection Plan with an explanatory document explaining the rationale behind the policies. Your agency will be given opportunities to provide input. The Source Protection Committee is committed to maximum accountability and transparency in the preparation of Source Protection Plan policies and is consulting with staff of your agency.

We invite you to learn more about Drinking Water Source Protection, the Assessment Reports, and Source Protection Plans. Please check our website at www.protectingwater.ca to learn about the program, and to review our schedule for plan development, the documents produced, and notification of public meetings.

If you have any questions about Drinking Water Source Protection please contact the Project Manager, Diane Bloomfield, at 905-854-9229 x 223 or at sourceprotection@hrca.on.ca

We look forward to working together to protect drinking water sources in the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region.

Sincerely,



Doug Cuthbert,
Chair, Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee