

Ministry of  
the Environment

Source Protection Programs  
Branch

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Ministère de  
l'Environnement

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des sources

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January 7, 2010

*Designated Participating Municipalities  
for the purposes of O.Reg. 284/07 (Source Protection Areas and Regions)*

**RE: Update on Clean Water Act, 2006 –  
Completion of assessment reports**

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I am pleased to provide you with an update on the status of assessment reports being developed by local source protection committees under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* (the CWA or the Act). As part of the province's multi-barrier approach to protecting drinking water, the CWA mandated that drinking water be protected at source using a variety of tools, including using existing tools such as municipal land use planning authorities. To assist municipalities to use these authorities, the Act established locally driven, watershed based, source protection committees to review and assess municipal drinking water sources. The Act mandated each source protection committee to prepare three documents: a terms of reference (to prepare an assessment report), an assessment report, and a drinking water source protection plan to address threats to municipal drinking water. Many municipalities currently have provisions in their land use planning documents to protect sources of drinking water, however for some municipalities; this assessment would provide them with the information necessary to do so.

All 38 assessment reports have now been prepared by the local source protection committees. The assessment report is a document that describes the local watershed and available water supplies, identifies vulnerable areas where drinking water sources might face a risk of contamination or depletion, assesses threats to drinking water within those vulnerable areas, and provides the basis for the development of a source protection plan. These documents have the ability to impact municipal planning decisions.

As you know, the *Planning Act* requires that all decisions affecting land use planning matters "be consistent with" the Provincial Policy Statement. Among other policies, s. 2.2.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement (2005) directs that planning authorities shall protect, improve, or restore the quality and quantity of water by: implementing necessary restrictions on development and site alteration to protect all municipal drinking water supplies and designated vulnerable areas.

The vulnerable areas identified in assessment reports are considered “designated vulnerable areas” under the PPS, 2005, as defined in accordance with provincial standards under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. Decisions on planning matters should consider information from the relevant local assessment report, as each municipality has an obligation to protect its drinking water sources in a manner that balances with other provincial interests.

The approval of assessment reports also means that a municipality may now use its authorities under section 56 of the CWA; these new authorities were provided to protect sources of drinking water through the use of interim risk management plans. Generally speaking, section 56 allows a municipality or conservation authority to negotiate and enforce risk management plans for specific threats enabled by regulation 287/07, to ensure that the threat ceases to be significant. Effectively using these authorities can provide protection to drinking water sources pending completion of a source protection plan. I strongly encourage municipalities to review their options and understand the implications of section 56. Doing so will assist municipalities in participating in the source protection planning process as well as in laying the foundation to implement these tools once source protection plans are completed.

Assessment reports are subject to two periods of public review and comment before being submitted to me for review and a decision<sup>1</sup>. Currently, all of the assessment reports have been submitted to me, and three reports have been approved. The assessment reports I have approved are for the Kettle Creek, Catfish Creek and Mattagami Region source protection areas, so that the delineated vulnerable areas are final.

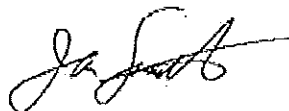
If you or your staff would like to view these assessment reports, they can be accessed through the Conservation Ontario website at [http://www.conservation-ontario.on.ca/source\\_protection/otherswpreionsindex.htm](http://www.conservation-ontario.on.ca/source_protection/otherswpreionsindex.htm). The balance of the assessment reports are anticipated to be approved over the next 6-12 months. Guidance materials to assist with municipal implementation will also be made available.

If your municipality is within more than one source protection area, it will be subject to more than one assessment report. This could result in part of a municipality having an approved assessment report with the assessment report(s) for the balance of the municipality awaiting approval. Your municipal representatives on the source protection committee, or the committee’s project manager, can be contacted for the status of the assessment report in your area. A list of project managers has been attached for your information.

Sincerely,

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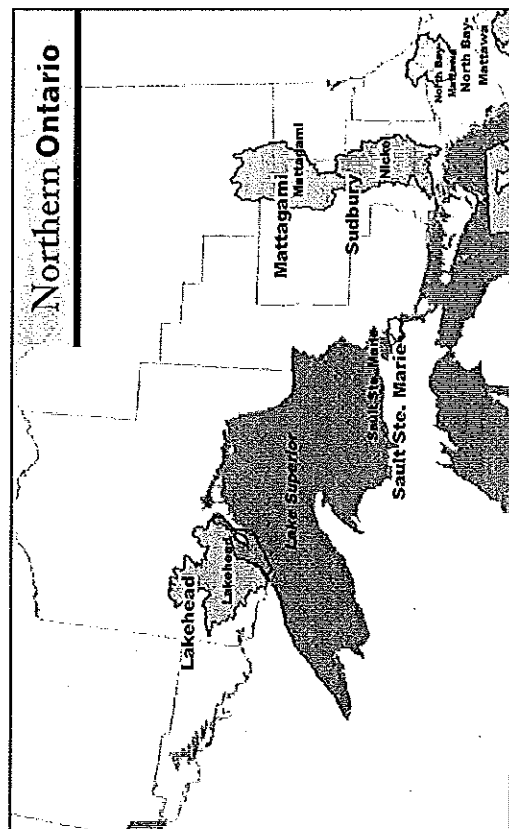
<sup>1</sup> Under section 17 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* the Director (delegated to Director at Source Protection Programs Branch, MOE) makes a decision on submitted assessment reports – either to return the document for directed changes and resubmission or approval.



Ian Smith, Director  
Source Protection Programs Branch  
Ministry of the Environment

Encl.

cc. Provincial Planning Directors  
MOE Liaison Officers  
Source Protection Committee Project Managers

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### ACT FOR CLEAN WATER



## Source Protection Authority Project Manager Contact Information

Source Protection Region	Project Manager	Website	Contact Email
Ausable Bayfield Mattland Valley Source Protection Region	Cathie Brown	<a href="http://www.sourcewaterinfo.on.ca/">http://www.sourcewaterinfo.on.ca/</a>	<a href="mailto:cbrown@abca.on.ca">cbrown@abca.on.ca</a>
Cataraqui Source Protection Area	Rob McRae	<a href="http://www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca/">http://www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca/</a>	<a href="mailto:robmcrae@cataraquiregion.on.ca">robmcrae@cataraquiregion.on.ca</a>
CTC Source Protection Region	Beverley Thorpe	<a href="http://www.ctcswp.ca/">http://www.ctcswp.ca/</a>	<a href="mailto:bthorpe@trca.on.ca">bthorpe@trca.on.ca</a>
Essex Region Source Protection Area	Stan Taylor	<a href="http://www.essexregionsourcewater.org/">http://www.essexregionsourcewater.org/</a>	<a href="mailto:staylor@erca.org">staylor@erca.org</a>
Haltim-Hamilton Source Protection Region	Diane Bloomfield	<a href="http://www.protectingwater.ca/">http://www.protectingwater.ca/</a>	<a href="mailto:dbloomfield@htrca.on.ca">dbloomfield@htrca.on.ca</a>
Lake Erie Source Protection Region	Martin Keller	<a href="http://www.sourcewater.ca/">http://www.sourcewater.ca/</a>	<a href="mailto:mkeller@grandriver.ca">mkeller@grandriver.ca</a>
Lakehead Source Protection Area	Jamie Saunders	<a href="http://www.sourceprotection.net/">http://www.sourceprotection.net/</a>	<a href="mailto:jamies@lakeheadca.com">jamies@lakeheadca.com</a>
Matigami Region Source Protection Area	Joe Evers	<a href="http://mrca.timmins.ca/swp/">http://mrca.timmins.ca/swp/</a>	<a href="mailto:joe.evers@city.timmins.on.ca">joe.evers@city.timmins.on.ca</a>
Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region	Sommer Casgrain-Robertson	<a href="http://www.mrsourcewater.ca/">http://www.mrsourcewater.ca/</a>	<a href="mailto:sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca">sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca</a>
Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region	Brian Stratton	<a href="http://www.mrsourcewater.ca/">http://www.mrsourcewater.ca/</a>	<a href="mailto:brian.stratton@mrsourcewater.ca">brian.stratton@mrsourcewater.ca</a>
Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area	Brian Wright	<a href="http://www.sourceprotection-niagara.ca/">http://www.sourceprotection-niagara.ca/</a>	<a href="mailto:bwright@npca.ca">bwright@npca.ca</a>
North Bay-Mattawa Source Protection Area	Sue Miller	<a href="http://www.nbmca.on.ca/site/indexd.asp?id=106">http://www.nbmca.on.ca/site/indexd.asp?id=106</a>	<a href="mailto:SueMiller@nbmca.on.ca">SueMiller@nbmca.on.ca</a>
Quinte Source Protection Region	Keith Taylor	<a href="http://quintesourcewater.ca/site/">http://quintesourcewater.ca/site/</a>	<a href="mailto:ktaylor@quinteconservation.ca">ktaylor@quinteconservation.ca</a>
Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region	Richard Pilon	<a href="http://www.yourdrinkingwater.ca/">http://www.yourdrinkingwater.ca/</a>	<a href="mailto:rpilon@nation.on.ca">rpilon@nation.on.ca</a>
Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region	Don Smith	<a href="http://www.waterprotection.ca/">http://www.waterprotection.ca/</a>	<a href="mailto:d.smith@waterprotection.ca">d.smith@waterprotection.ca</a>
Sault Ste. Marie Region Source Protection Area	Rhonda Bateman	<a href="http://www.ssmrca.ca/Section.aspx?ID=7">http://www.ssmrca.ca/Section.aspx?ID=7</a>	<a href="mailto:rbateman@ssmrca.ca">rbateman@ssmrca.ca</a>
South Georgian Bay-Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region	Don Goodyear	<a href="http://www.ourwatershed.ca/">http://www.ourwatershed.ca/</a>	<a href="mailto:d.goodyear@lsrca.on.ca">d.goodyear@lsrca.on.ca</a>
Sudbury Source Protection Area	Judy Sewell	<a href="http://www.nickeldistrict.ca/dwsp/index.php">http://www.nickeldistrict.ca/dwsp/index.php</a>	<a href="mailto:Judy.Sewell@city.greatersudbury.on.ca">Judy.Sewell@city.greatersudbury.on.ca</a>
Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region	Chris Tasker	<a href="http://www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca/">http://www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca/</a>	<a href="mailto:taskerc@thamesrver.on.ca">taskerc@thamesrver.on.ca</a>
Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region	Jennifer Stephens	<a href="http://www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca/">http://www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca/</a>	<a href="mailto:jennifer.stephens@ltc.on.ca">jennifer.stephens@ltc.on.ca</a>