

Cataraqui Source Protection Municipal Update

May 2016

Drinking Water Protection Road Signs

The [Cataraqui Source Protection Plan](#) (Policy 4.4.1-NB) recommends that municipalities purchase, install and maintain drinking protection signs on municipal arterial roads that enter wellhead protection areas and more vulnerable intake protection zones. The purpose of the signs is to raise awareness of drinking water protection zones and to serve as a reminder to first responders in the event of an emergency or spill.

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) provided the artwork and design specifications for source protection road signs in 2015. Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) staff suggested general [sign placement locations](#).

These locations may need to be adjusted to suit local conditions along each road.



Municipalities that received Source Protection Municipal Implementation Funding should note that the purchase/production of road signs will be an eligible expense pending an amendment to the funding agreement (see below). All other related costs (e.g. staff time, installation, etc.) are already eligible.

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is responsible for the installation and maintenance of source protection road signs along Provincial highways. MTO is now conducting safety assessments for those road sign locations, with the intent to install the signs by 2018.

Source Protection Municipal Implementation Funding – NEW Flexibility Measures

Recipient municipalities across Ontario made recommendations to the MOECC for improvements to the eligibility criteria and timelines for the Source Protection Municipal Implementation Fund (SPMIF). In February 2016, MOECC responded by announcing additional flexibility measures under SPMIF which include:

- Three-month spending extensions until March 5, 2017
- Purchase/production of municipal drinking water protection road signs
- Pooling of funds to support collaboration
- Non-lead implementing body responsibilities to support collaboration (in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area, this is especially notable for education and outreach initiatives, which were previously ineligible)
- Risk Management Official support to cover travel, meals, accommodations, equipment, and training

To amend your SPMIF agreement, please send an email with the subject line “SPMIF Flexibility - Name of Municipality” to SourceProtectionFunding@ontario.ca

To receive this funding extension and the additional flexibility measures, grant recipients must request an amendment to their SPMIF agreement.

Regional Risk Management Office Update

In 2014, six of the seven municipalities in the Cataraqui area with risk management responsibilities signed Enforcement Transfer Agreements (ETAs) with the CRCA. The Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands established a local risk management office. Through this Agreement, the CRCA has carried out all implementation under Part IV of the *Clean Water Act* within the subject municipalities through a regional Risk Management Office.

To date, risk management work to address existing activities is complete for the applicable intake protection zones at Brockville, Gananoque and Sydenham. Work continues in the two wellhead protection areas at Cana / Kingston Mills and Mallorytown.

Pending discussions between municipalities with Part IV responsibilities and the CRCA, the administration of risk management services may transition to municipalities in December 2017. The MOECC offers a course for municipal staff that is a prerequisite for completing this work. For those interested, the Ministry's next Risk Management Official / Inspector training course will be held at Toronto from June 6th - 9th, 2016. Registration will close on May 20th, 2016 and space is limited.

As noted above, SPMIF recipients that request an amendment to their funding agreement will be able to use the grant to support training, equipment, and other costs associated with a local Risk Management Official / Inspector.

Groundwater Assessment Guideline

A Professional Geoscientist (hydrogeologist) has been retained from Geofirma Engineering Ltd. to prepare guidance in support of implementing policy 5.5.1-HR in the [Cataraqui Source Protection Plan](#). The forthcoming guideline is intended to be used by proponents of development, planning approval authorities and the CRCA to: (1) Identify the presence, extent and impact on groundwater vulnerability of karst features on or adjacent to a property; and (2) Assess the vulnerability of the groundwater in a local area, based on typically available desktop and field data such as nearby well records, soil maps, bedrock information, soil test pits and field surveys.

A technical advisory group of local planners, hydrogeologists, and CRCA staff has been working with the consultant. The Groundwater Assessment Guideline is expected to be completed in June 2016. Copies will subsequently be distributed to municipalities and published on the www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca website.

Invitations

Education and Outreach Matters

Successful implementation of the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan depends, to a certain extent, on appropriate messaging. People living and working in vulnerable areas are more likely to support source protection if there is a clear understanding of the reasons behind policies in the Plan, and knowledge about what they can do on an individual level to protect their drinking water.

CRCA staff have some ideas that could be applied within specific vulnerable areas and we would be happy to share them with you. Please call or email for more information.

Salt Management Plans

[The Cataraqui Source Protection Plan](#) (Policy 4.7.2-NB) recommends that municipalities review and update their salt management plans to account for the sensitivity of vulnerable areas by April 1, 2018. Some examples of practices that could be included in an updated salt management plan are: locating new salt and snow storage areas outside of vulnerable areas, prioritizing street sweeping within the vulnerable areas, and training staff to maintain good yard maintenance procedures.

If you would like to participate in a discussion with municipal staff from across the Cataraqui Source Protection Area about local salt management plans, please call or email CRCA staff.

Source Protection Forum

Local implementers of the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan can expect an invitation to our annual source protection forum later this year.

Future Work

Municipal Emergency Plan Updates

[The Cataraqui Source Protection Plan](#) (4.3.2-CW and 4.3.3-NB) requires or recommends that municipalities update their emergency management plans and appropriate department supplemental plans to identify the location(s) of wellhead protection areas (WHPAs) and/or intake protection zones (IPZs) to better protect the drinking water source in the event of an emergency, spill, or unauthorized discharge.

Updating emergency management plans to consider source water protection ensures that procedures are in place to address spills or other emergencies which could affect drinking water intakes or supply wells.

To support municipalities with the update of their emergency plans, CRCA staff worked with Conservation Ontario staff to develop a document that provides guidance to consider source water protection in municipal emergency plan updates. This guidance document will be posted shortly to the www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca website.

Please call or email CRCA staff if you would like to discuss how to use the guidance document to update your municipal emergency plan.

Official Plan and Zoning By-law Updates

Local municipal staff formed a Land Use Planning Working Group with logistical support from the CRCA. They submitted draft model official plan wording to the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing that addresses source protection additions. A senior planner at the Community Development and Planning Office provided comments. Please expect an email notification shortly that will provide a link to the final model wording on the www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca website.

MOECC recently distributed guidance to support the update of land use planning documents to include source protection considerations. This document will be a good reference for land use planners in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area working to update municipal planning documents and it will be posted to our website shortly.

Members of the Land Use Planning Working Group will meet in May to finalize the draft model official plan wording, and to discuss how to update zoning by-laws with relevant source protection content.

Questions / Comments

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