
Transport Pathways Fact Sheet

What is a transport pathway?

A transport pathway is a human-made passage where water can flow on its way to a drinking water intake or well. These pathways create short-cuts that artificially enhance flow towards a drinking water source. Although transport pathways themselves are not a threat to drinking water, any pollution associated with nearby activities can pose an increased risk.

Transport pathways can be different for wellhead protection areas and intake protection zones. In a wellhead protection area, transport pathways can include ponds, ditches, swales, sewers, and utility trenches. In an intake protection zone, transport pathways to the surface water can include new and modified storm sewers and roadside ditches or swales. There may be other activities that can also be considered a transport pathway.

What is the *Clean Water Act*?

The *Clean Water Act* was created in response to recommendations from the public inquiry that took place after the Walkerton tragedy. The purpose of the *Clean Water Act* is to protect existing and future sources of drinking water in the province of Ontario. Municipal sources of drinking water across the province are now protected by locally developed source protection plans.

Under the *Clean Water Act*, vulnerable areas close to municipal drinking water sources where pollutants can readily impact the drinking water quality have been analyzed and mapped. If the drinking water source is a groundwater well, the vulnerable area is called a wellhead protection area (WHPA). If the drinking water source is a lake or river, the vulnerable area is called an intake protection zone (IPZ).

Why is my project subject to notification under the *Clean Water Act*?

Your project is located in a wellhead protection area or an intake protection zone and could impact drinking water sources in the vulnerable area. The creation of a new transport pathway or the modification of an existing one has the potential to increase the vulnerability of a wellhead protection area or expand the boundary of an intake protection zone. In some cases additional landowners or businesses may become subject to binding source protection policies as a result of changes.

What is the purpose of this notification?

Under Subsection 27(3) of the *Clean Water Act*, the Cataraqui Source Protection Authority has been notified of your project by the municipality due to its potential to create a transport pathway or alter an existing transport pathway, which could increase the risk of pollution of the municipal drinking water system. The Cataraqui Source Protection Authority will assess whether or not your proposal will impact the vulnerability of the wellhead protection area or the boundary of the intake protection zone.

What happens after the project review?

The Cataraqui Source Protection Authority will inform you of the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan policies that do (e.g. a risk management plan is required) or could apply to your project (e.g. storage of certain chemicals on your site will be prohibited). This review of the potential impact of your proposal allows you to fully consider any technical or financial implications of the source protection plan prior to proceeding with your application.

The Cataraqui Source Protection Authority will send you results of the review. It will include:

- A list of source protection plan policies that your project may be subject to if it proceeds as proposed; and
- Any recommendations from the Cataraqui Source Protection Authority that would remove or reduce the impact of the new or modified transport pathway so that source protection plan policies will not apply to your project, which may include:
 - Relocating the site of your proposed project;
 - Modifying the design of your proposal; and/or
 - Incorporating protective measures to minimize the risk to source water.

For more information, please contact:

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