

Draft for SPC Review of Part II

Annual Report on Implementation Of the Source Protection Plans

for the Halton Region and Hamilton Region
Source Protection Areas



For the reporting period

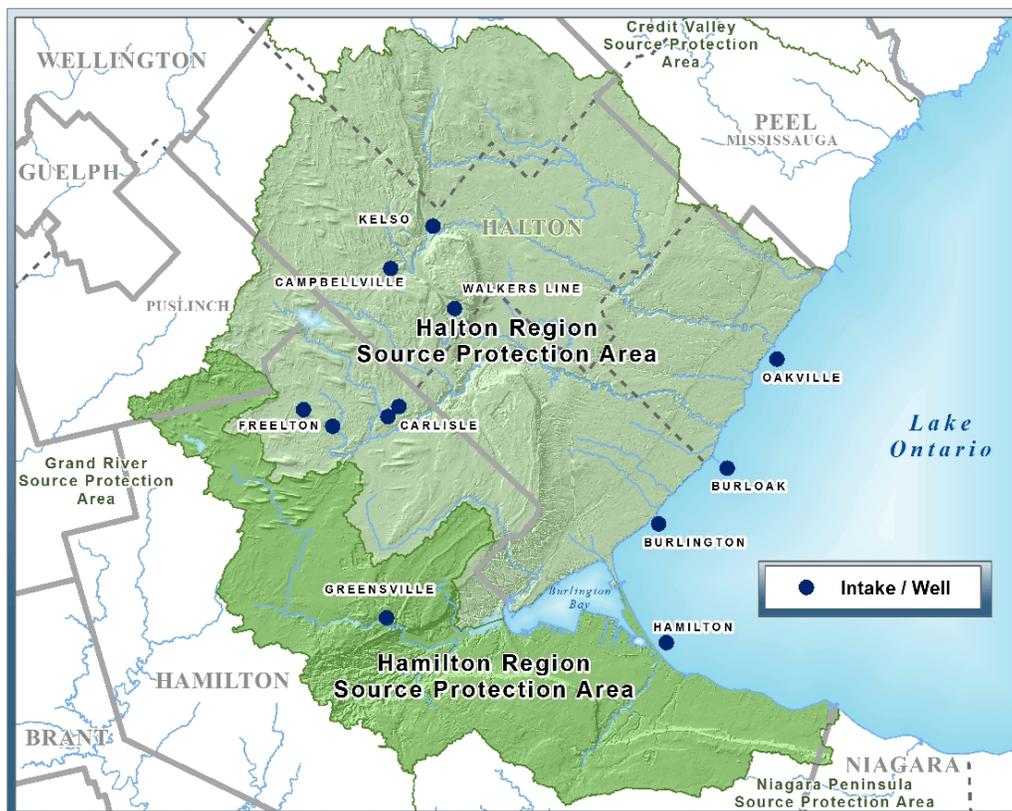
December 31, 2015 to December 31, 2016

Source Protection Annual Progress Report | 2017-02-21

I. Introduction

This annual progress report briefly summarizes the progress made in implementing the source protection plans for the Halton Region and Hamilton Region Source Protection Areas, as required by the Clean Water Act and its regulations. This report covers the period of implementation from the date the plans took effect - December 31, 2015, through to December 31, 2016.

Protecting the sources of our drinking water is the first step in a multi-barrier approach to safeguard the quality and quantity of our water supplies. The source protection plan is the culmination of extensive science-based assessments, consultation, collaboration, and research and the implementation of the policies it contains will ensure that activities carried out in the vicinity of municipal wells and lake-based water intakes will not pose significant risk to those supplies.



II. A message from your local Source Protection Committee

Our progress score on achieving source protection plan objectives this reporting period:

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

It is the opinion of the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee that the progress score for this reporting period for its source protection plan is considered to be satisfactory. There are 162 policies in the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Plan dealing with prescribed drinking water threats (140), local threats (4) and other strategic policies (18) pertinent to the two source protection areas. There are approximately 360 actions required by the various implementing bodies consisting of the municipalities within the source protection region as well as various provincial ministries and other agencies and stakeholders in order to implement these 162 policies.

Approximately 36% of the policies have been implemented by the implementing bodies while 33% are in progress and 31% have not been started. It should be noted that a number of the policies are not required to be implemented until two to three years from the effective date of the source protection plan, which is December 31, 2015. Also, 51% of the existing significant drinking water threats have been addressed.

The ranking of a score of satisfactory by the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee is believed to be a fair assessment on the progress of implementing its source protection plan based on the number of policies that have been implemented as well as the number of policies that are in process of being implemented.

III. Our Watershed

To learn more, please read our assessment report(s) and source protection plan(s).

The Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region is located at the western end of Lake Ontario and includes portions of the municipalities of the Cities of Hamilton, Burlington and Mississauga, the Regions of Halton, Peel and Niagara, the Towns of Milton, Halton Hills, Oakville and Grimsby, the County of Wellington and the Township of Puslinch. The region covers an area of 1,417 sq km of land and 720 sq km of Great Lakes waters.

Approximately 970,000 people make the source protection region their home and the region is expected to grow substantially over the next decades. The landscape is changing due to this growth and the source protection plan is in place to help guide this growth in a way that protects our vulnerable drinking water sources.

The Regional Municipality of Halton and the City of Hamilton own and operate municipal water systems within the Source Protection Region. These systems include five intakes in Lake Ontario (Woodward, Burlington (2), Burloak and Oakville), three municipal well systems in Hamilton (Carlisle, Freulton and Greensville) and three municipal well systems in Halton Region (Kelso, Campbellville and Walkers Line). In addition, some homes and businesses within the region are supplied water from municipal drinking water systems located in neighbouring areas. In total, these municipal water systems supply about 95 percent of the population within the source protection region with reliable, clean drinking water. About 92 percent of the population receive water from Lake Ontario and 3 percent receive groundwater. Outside the urban area, private wells and cisterns are relied on by the remaining 5 percent of the population. Private well systems and the natural environment use the same sources of water that, under the current program, the government seeks to protect for municipal supplies. In this way, maintaining a sustainable supply of clean water within the aquifers of Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region and in Lake Ontario will benefit all residents and business operators.

Studies completed over the past few years have assessed the vulnerabilities and risks to the municipal wells and intakes from activities occurring on lands and in waters in their vicinity. Protection areas have been mapped and a plan developed to manage or prohibit certain activities within these areas. The source protection plan contains policies that require or request action from provincial ministries, federal departments, municipalities, conservation authorities, landowners, and stakeholders. This report summarizes actions taken over the past year since the plan took effect on December 31, 2015.

For more information about the drinking water source protection program in the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region, please visit our website at www.protectingwater.ca

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

1. Source Protection Plan Policies

The Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee included 162 policies in their source protection plan to address 21 prescribed threats, 1 local threat, actions thought to be necessary to protect sources of drinking water, and the monitoring of policy implementation. Some policies are implemented by one body, while others are to be implemented by many. Since the source protection plan took effect one year ago, much has been accomplished. To date, 58 policies (36 %) have been implemented and 54 (33 %) are in process. The plan sets out timelines for policy implementation and many policies not already implemented have two to five years for this process to be completed. Of significance is that 68 % of the policies that are optional for implementation have been or are in the process of being implemented.

Based on the good effort realized this year, the progress score given for overall plan implementation status is S: Satisfactory.

2. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

Of the 12 municipalities that have lands within the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region, 8 have mapped protection areas for municipal wells or Great Lakes intakes in their jurisdiction. Policies apply in each of these areas to manage or prohibit certain activities or to inform decision makers and landowners. The Source Protection Plan also includes general policies that all municipalities were requested to implement to protect the quality and/or quantity of source water.

The municipalities are at various stages of policy implementation and incorporating source protection planning and knowledge into their day-to-day activities. Risk management officials and inspectors have been appointed and are enforcing the requirements of the source protection plan and the Clean Water Act with risk management plans not required to be produced for another four years. Planning departments and building officials are screening applications for location within vulnerable areas where threats to drinking water sources are possible and policies may apply. And furthermore, Official Plans have either been amended or are being reviewed for inclusion of source protection requirements. The review and amendment process at the upper tier municipality is required prior to the lower tier initiating their process. Municipal education and outreach policies have a two-year timeframe for implementation and are scheduled for completion in 2017.

Given the level of effort to date, the score for municipal progress is S: Satisfactory.

3. Septic Inspections

The Ontario Building Code requires that small septic systems be re-inspected every five years through a mandatory minimal program or a discretionary more advanced program. These inspection programs were carried out by two municipalities within the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region. All property owners received letters to have third party contractors complete the inspection and to submit the required certificate to the municipality following completion of any required works. 88 percent of participants have complied and the municipal inspectors have followed-up with those outstanding. Only one major repair has been required to date. Minor repairs were required in one municipality, as all septic tanks had to be pumped out as part of the inspection.

The inspection program included outreach materials about proper use and maintenance of septic systems that also satisfied the requirements of another source protection policy.

A progress score of S: Satisfactory is given to the septic inspection programs.

4. Risk Management Plans

Risk management officials and inspectors were appointed and tasked in 2016 with verifying the threats identified in the assessment reports. This process is mostly complete with some landowner contacts to be made in 2017. Screening processes are in place within the planning and building departments of the municipalities to ensure applications for future development are reviewed appropriately for potential threat activities and policy application. The negotiation of risk management plans for existing significant drinking water threats has not begun; however, the source protection plan sets a timeframe of five years for completion.

A progress score of S: Satisfactory is given to the development of risk management plans.

5. Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

Many provincial ministries and departments within those ministries are called on to implement policies within the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Plan. The ministries include MOECC, MNRF, MMA, MTO and OMAFRA and the policies are included to reduce the risk of significant threat activities or to inform decision makers, collect and share data and lessons learned with others, or provide incentives to advance policy implementation.

The integration of source protection planning into their standard operating practices began prior to this reporting year, and for some it is still ongoing. Plan policies require a review of previously issued prescribed instruments where significant threats are possible and the completion of this task varies between not started and 100 percent complete. In one case no report was received.

A primary issue was revealed through this annual reporting process - that the collection of policy implementation data by ministries or departments is not necessarily aligned with source protection areas/regions, nor with our reporting period. One ministry also indicated that a policy was not implementable because it was asking for something that they did not do. Unfortunately, this was not brought forward during previous consultation with this ministry.

Much has been accomplished by the province to date and a score of S: Satisfactory is given.

6. Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

Municipalities and conservation authorities within the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region have been working to increase the awareness of residents and business owners about source protection planning and the safeguarding of our drinking water sources. Halton Region, in collaboration with Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, hosted successful Environmental Farm Plan meetings for the agricultural community working within wellhead protection areas to promote funding opportunities through the Growing Forward 2 program and policy implementation.

The City of Hamilton is collecting data and leading discussion on water use and conservation within the village of Carlisle, trying to decrease demand. They are engaging the community through a dedicated website, roadside signs and mailouts.

To raise awareness about the protection of local drinking water sources, the City of Hamilton has also placed 20 local source protection signs on roadways surrounding municipal wells with contact details for information inquiries.

The two conservation authorities within the region have updated/issued disposal of fill guidance and policies to raise awareness about proper quality monitoring and placement of fill. This aligns with a strategic policy in the source protection plan.

7. Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delays

As indicated previously, 69 percent of the policies in the source protection plan have been or are being implemented. This leaves 31 percent not started.

One policy, and its associated monitoring policy, has been determined to be not implementable by OMAFRA as it asks them to do something they don't do. If the policy remains in place it will always be not started.

Other policies are not started for a variety of reasons. The threat verification process has removed some threats and, therefore, the policies do not need to be implemented. Education and outreach policies are to be implemented within two years of the effective date of the plan and implementation is scheduled for 2017. Prescribed instrument policies have a three-year implementation period and will proceed over the next two years. Risk management plans must be in place within five-years of the effective date of the plan and will proceed as time permits.

Some policies are not started because lower tier municipalities are waiting for the planning process at the upper tier municipality to finish. They understand the requirements placed on them by the source protection plan policies and will proceed when possible to.

Similarly, some policies are not implemented because they depend on the implementation of another policy first, for example, the implementation of a stewardship program following the establishment of a provincial funding program.

Other policies are not implemented because they don't have to be. The plan includes 22 policies that are optional for implementation. Seven of these have not been started.

And finally, some monitoring policies were not implemented as no report was received from the implementing body. These bodies will be contacted and the policies made clear before the next reporting deadline.

8. Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

The Cedarvale well field is located in Georgetown, part of Halton Hills, and its protection areas for quality and quantity extend slightly into the Halton Region Source Protection Area. Well numbers 1A, 4 and 4A in this well field have rising trends in chloride concentrations and an issue contributing area has been delineated. The CTC Source Protection Committee identified the need for management measures and the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee included policies in their plan to manage or prohibit the storage and application of road salt and the storage of snow.

Halton Region reported that during 2016, the chloride concentration trends at the wells did not change.

9. Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans

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

10. More from the Watershed

To learn more about our source protection region/area, visit our Homepage.

<http://www.protectingwater.ca>

The Source Protection Plan for the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region includes policies to be implemented by other stakeholders in addition to those mentioned above. This includes agencies, businesses, landowners, and Environment Canada. Some of the policies have been implemented, some are in process, and some have not been started. Most of these policies are optional for implementation and it is good to see the engagement of the local community.

Fuel storage and handling businesses have been engaged throughout the planning process and policy development and have, or are in the process of implementing their policies.

Other agencies have indicated a desire to comply with policy requirements and will proceed with implementation in 2017.

And still others need to be contacted and encouraged to improve programs or regulatory requirements for activities within vulnerable areas. This outreach will be completed in 2017.