

REPORT TO: Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee
REPORT NO.: SPC-22-06-01
FROM: Chitra Gowda, Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Source Protection
cgowda@hrca.on.ca
DATE: June 7, 2022
SUBJECT: Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Workplan Summary 2022-24

Recommendation

THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee **receives for information the Staff report SPC-22-06-01 Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Workplan Summary 2022-24.**

Executive Summary

The Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region submitted a workplan for 2022-24 and received approval for most of the projects that were proposed. Staff will continue to maintain the governance framework, support the Source Protection Committee's sector engagement work, finalize comprehensive updates undertaken per Section 36 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and begin to apply the 2021 technical framework to Source Protection Authority initiated updates per Section 34 of the Act.

Report

Background

The HHSPR received approval from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to begin a two-year workplan involving several projects to continue protecting municipal drinking water sources per the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. The workplan is from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2024. The key elements and projects are described below.

Governance Maintenance

Conservation Halton and the Hamilton Conservation Authority are watershed-based Source Protection Authorities (SPAs) under Ontario's *Clean Water Act, 2006*. They partner together to form the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region (HHSPR), through oversight of the Source Protection Management Committee (SPMC) comprised of SPA board chairs, vice chairs and others.

The boards of the conservation authorities also serve as SPA boards. After the Ontario municipal election in October 2022, the CA board chairs and vice chairs would also become the SPA board chairs and vice chairs in order to maintain the SPMC. HHSPR will seek three municipally appointed members to join the Source Protection Committee to represent all member municipalities. Municipal member appointments are four years long. As well, the Source Protection Committee (SPC) Chair appointment expires in August 2022 and HHSPR staff will support the election of an acting Chair from the SPC membership in September

2022. See SPC Business Report 22-06-03 for more information. HHSPR will continue to support the source water protection governance structure and operations.

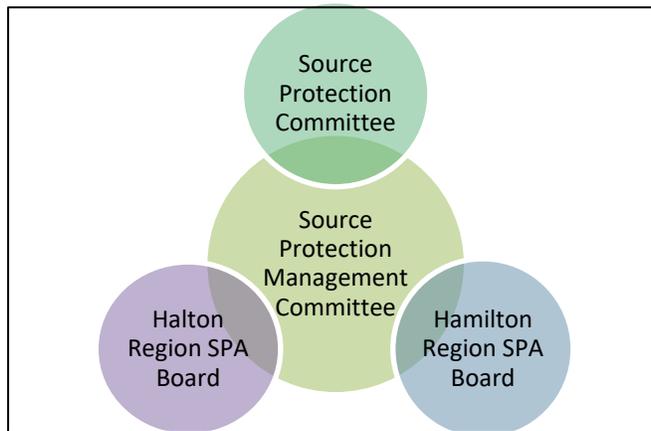


Figure 1: Source Water Protection Governance Bodies

Assessment and Application of the 2021 Technical Rules

The Technical Rules (“rules”) developed by MECP provide the overarching technical framework under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* which must be followed across the province per the legislation. MECP updated the rules in 2021. Accordingly, HHSPR is to:

- Assess changes made in 2021 to the Technical Rules (including Tables of Drinking Water Threats) and determine if amendments to the assessment reports and source protection plan are needed (around May to October 2022)
- If applicable, undertake draft work per the 2021 Technical Rules, including updates to the assessment reports and source protection plan related to terminology, mapping, removal of chemicals of concerns, impervious surface mapping, DNAPL list of activities updates, storage of snow, and fertilizer and fuel drinking water threat activity changes (November 2022 to December 2023).

Technical Work

The technical work to be carried out through SPA initiated updates per Section 34 of the Act (and following the 2021 technical rules) is provided below:

- account for decommissioning of Greenville wells in the City of Hamilton (when work is completed by the municipality)
- account for replacement of Carlisle well in the City of Hamilton (when work is completed by the municipality)
- account for decommissioning of Walkers Line wells in the Regional Municipality of Halton (when work is completed by the municipality)
- determine if an alternate method to calculating livestock density for agricultural properties closer to large, urbanized areas is needed, apply new calculations when determined, and update mapping (around May to September 2022)

- determine if a revised impervious surface mapping method is needed, and update mapping to be consistent with neighbouring source protection areas and regions (around May to September 2022)
- re-delineate and re-assess the vulnerability of the Woodward IPZ-2, considering available source water quality concerns information (when relevant data is received from the Hamilton Conservation Authority through their separate floodplain modelling study)
- incorporate the Guelph-Guelph-Eramosa WHPA delineations and consider source protection plan policies from Lake Erie SPR (timing depends on Lake Erie SPR).

Policy Work

- Address challenges with and update SPP policies related to nutrient management plans, if required (timing depends on MECP's coordinated solutions with OMAFRA, to benefit all source protection plans)
- Address challenges with and update SPP policy "T-52-C" related to monitoring and reporting, if required (by December 2022)
- Address challenges with policies related to notification for municipalities about short term, low risk water takings, to address concerns raised by municipalities about policy requirement consistency between source protection areas and regions (timing depends on Lake Erie SPC's finalization of policies)
- Update policies in discussion with municipalities, neighbouring SPA/Rs and SPC after assessing the implications of the changes to the Technical Rules (through 2023).

Other

- Submit comprehensive updates per Section 36 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* (by end of May 2022 – done)
- Address final comments from MECP on the Section 36 updates submission (timing depends on MECP)
- Review information received about contaminant transport pathways in wellhead protection areas (WHPAs) or intake protection zones (IPZs) (ongoing)
- Retain records as required by the legislation (ongoing)
- Issue confirmation notices under Section 48 of the O. Reg. 287/07 upon review of Section 34 related technical work from municipalities (timing depends on municipalities)
- Annual progress reporting on source protection plan policy implementation (ongoing, with submissions of the reports to MECP each year per legislated deadlines)
- Support SPC members' sector engagement work through materials and updated large sized maps for displays (June 2022 through March 2024)
- Initiate early engagement with MECP on the draft assessment reports, source protection plan and explanatory documents (initiate by March 31, 2024).

These tasks were not approved to be carried out:

- Update of water quality discussions in the watershed characterization results (e.g.: pathogen information from health units from more than a decade ago)
- Intake protection zone-threes (IPZ-3s) for aged and defective wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

Signed & respectfully submitted:

Chitra Gowda

Chitra Gowda
Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Source Protection
cgowda@hrca.on.ca