

Report To: Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee
Report No.: SPC-23-12-01
From: Martin Keller, Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Source Protection
Date: December 5, 2023
Subject: Source Protection Program Updates

Recommendation

THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee receives for information the staff report SPC-23-12-01 Source Protection Program Updates

Executive Summary

This program update report includes updates on the recent Committee member appointment to the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee, progress on addressing the 2021 Director's Technical Rules changes, feedback from the Agrichemical Warehouse Standards Association regarding the Source Protection information sheet, approval of funding for the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Tool and progress on the updates to the Annual Progress Reporting and Policy Database portals.

Report

Source Protection Committee member appointments

On November 23, 2023, the Halton Region Source Protection Authority appointed Emily Milligan to the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee as a public interest representative for a five-year term. Emily has a B.Sc. in Chemistry from the University of Waterloo, with background in physical and environmental sciences. Emily currently works at Bell Canada as an Agile Product Owner.

2021 Technical Rules

Staff continued discussions addressing changes to the 2021 Technical Rules with the Halton Hamilton Municipal Working Group at meetings on October 18 and November 15, 2023. Details on the proposed revisions for each of the prescribed drinking water threat activities are contained in separate reports on this meeting's agenda.

Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association (AWSA)

Staff have received feedback from AWSA staff on the two-page Source Protection Primer, developed in collaboration with Conservation Ontario and intended for distribution to Agrichemical Warehouse owner/operators and AWSA auditors. Staff will now finalize the Primer and work with AWSA on circulation. Staff will also engage AWSA to gauge interest on a webinar for Agrichemical Warehouse owner/operator and AWSA auditors as a follow up to the Primer. In addition, staff have been informed that AWSA is in the final stages of

review of their national AWSA code and that the following language has been included as a requirement for new builds: *All new storage builds are located at distances in excess of 30M from environmentally sensitive areas.* It is staff's understanding that more detail with specific reference to Ontario's source protection program, including reference to the Primer, can be included in the interpretation section of the AWSA code. Staff will continue to engage with AWSA to support building awareness of source protection.

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Tool

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has approved additional funding to undertake Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments (CCVA) for the drinking water systems in the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region (HHSPR), using the Conservation Ontario tool, developed in 2020. For each drinking water system and focusing on water quality, this work is analysing the climate projections (i.e., trends) and assesses the climate change exposure and sensitivity of the drinking water systems to determine potential impacts. The study then determines adaptive capacity to identify the level of vulnerability for each system. The study is planned to be completed before end of March 31, 2024.

Annual Reporting and Policy Database

Updates to the annual reporting and new policy database interface have been completed Thursday November 30, 2023. Staff provided a training session with municipality representatives responsible for annual reporting on Friday December 1, 2023. The session included an overview of the new policy implementation database, changes made to the Annual Reporting process and review of the questions that have been added for the 2023 reporting year. Municipal representatives had an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. Following the training session, the EAR Portal and Policy Database was released to the municipalities to begin the annual reporting process. Municipalities are required to complete their annual reporting by February 1, 2024.

Signed & respectfully submitted:



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