



The Clean Water Act

The *Clean Water Act, 2006* became law July 3, 2007. The Act had been introduced on December 5, 2005 and received Royal Assent on October 19, 2006. The first phase of the Act, which was creating a Source Protection Committee has been completed.

The *Clean Water Act, 2006* introduces a new level of protection for Ontario's drinking water resources that is based on taking preventative measures by focusing on protecting water before it enters the drinking water treatment system. The basis of the Act comes from recommendations from the Walkerton Inquiry. This inquiry called for a watershed based process to protect drinking water sources. The Act establishes a locally driven, science-based, multi-stakeholder process to protect municipal drinking water sources, which will promote the shared responsibility of all stakeholders to protect local sources of drinking water.

The *Clean Water Act, 2006* is limited to sources of water that have been designated by a municipality as being a current or future source of residential municipal drinking water for the community. Drinking water sources are susceptible to contamination, depletion and other stresses. Taking preventative measures is the best form of protection, when it comes to our drinking water, and is what watershed based source protection is about.

Drinking Water Source Protection involves identifying sources of drinking water, determining the best management practices to mitigate the threat and continued monitoring.

The source protection process allows for four major stages which include assembling a source protection committee, drafting a proposed Terms of Reference, preparing the Assessment report, preparing a Source Protection Plan, and implementing the Source Protection Plan.

The establishment of a Source Protection Committees (SPC's) have occurred throughout the 19 Source Protection Regions/Areas. A terms of reference must be developed for the assessment report and the source protection plan.

Preparing the assessment report involves outlining the vulnerable areas and potential threats in the source protection area.

In stage three, the SPC through the source protection plan will determine the actions required to address threats to the municipal drinking water sources.

The final stage, involves implementing the plan at the local level including: monitoring, reporting on progress and enforcement involved with this implementation and the development of risk management plans.

Under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, the development of plans to respond to possible threats represents a new way for municipalities and conservation authorities to work together on a watershed basis.

Source Protection Authority

Ken Lamming, Chair
Councillor Prince Township

Neil DelBianco, Vice Chair
Citizen Appointee Sault Ste. Marie

Frank Manzo, Councillor Sault Ste. Marie

Susan Myers, Councillor Sault Ste. Marie

Ozzie Grandinetti, Councillor Sault Ste. Marie

Source Protection Committee

Subhash Verma, Chair

Roy Bertolo, Aggregates

Andrew Hallett, PUC Services Inc.

Susan Hamilton-Beach, City of SSM

Peter McLarty, Environmental

Hal McGonigal, Prince Twp.

Peter Tonazzo, City of SSM

Lawrence Woolley, SSM Resident

Ralph Yanni, Sault North Resident

Source Protection Planning Team

Rhonda Bateman, Coordinator

Marlene McKinnon, GIS Specialist

Christine Aasen, Communications

Anjum Amin, Technical Advisor

Loralei Premo, SPC Administrator &
Communications Assistant



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The Province provides framework and guidance as well as approves plans. The Source Protection Authority has primary responsibility for establishing a multi-stakeholder Source Protection Committee and for providing administrative, technical and scientific support to the Source Protection Committee. In most cases, the Source Protection Authority will be an existing Conservation Authority Board.

Source Protection Areas are grouped together to form 19 source protection regions. One source protection area is the lead and coordinates the efforts of the authorities across each region. This lead authority is responsible for the establishment of the source protection committee for the region and to provide support to the committee. Property owners, industry, businesses, agricultural representatives, community groups and the public also all play an important role. Engaging the local community in source protection planning will build on partnerships to protect common interests. Broader public consultation across the watershed, will provide an opportunity for everyone to provide their input.

The Source Protection Committee is responsible for preparing the Terms of Reference, the Assessment Report and the Source Protection Plan, as well as ensuring that stakeholders and the public in the watershed are informed and consulted. The Terms of Reference are the details of the working relationship. The Assessment Report will be based on technical modules which will help with the identification and assessment of threats and will serve as the rationale for the Source Protection Plan. Through the source protection committee, municipalities will work to identify, assess and address risks to drinking water within their municipal wellhead areas and intake protection zones. Locally, the Source Protection Committee is made up of nine members representing municipalities, aggregate industry, environmental groups and the general public. The Chair for this committee was appointed by the Minister of the Environment through a Minister's Letter of Appointment.

The Source Protection Committee is currently working on the Draft Proposed Terms of Reference which will state the objectives, deliverables, roles and responsibilities for preparing the Assessment Report and the Source Protection Plan. These stages of planning are expected to take up to five years. Once the plan has been approved by the Minister of the Environment implementation will begin.

Municipalities have a strong role in developing and implementing source protection plans in their jurisdiction. Conservation Authorities, with their watershed-based perspective, will help source protection committees develop policies within the source protection plans by gathering and sharing information, and providing technical support and advice to address future risks. The policies developed by the SPC will be implemented by municipalities to reduce risks posed by activities located in areas under their jurisdiction.

Source Protection Authorities and Source Protection Committees have important obligations to keep the public informed in the source protection process.



Subhash Verma,
Chair

**Sault Ste. Marie Region
Source Protection
Committee**



Susan Hamilton-Beach,
City of Sault Ste. Marie
Representative



Peter Tonazzo,
City of Sault Ste. Marie
Representative



Hal McGonigal,
Prince Township
Representative



Peter McLarty,
Environmental
Representative



Lawrence Woolley,
City of Sault Ste. Marie
Resident



Roy Bertolo,
Aggregates
Representative



Ralph Yanni,
Sault North
Resident



Andrew Hallett,
PUC Services Inc.
Representative

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

The public is invited to review the draft proposed Terms of Reference online at www.ssmrca.ca, in person at any of the following locations: Prince Township municipal office, the Civic Centre Clerk's office or the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority, Monday-Friday during office hours.

Please plan on attending one of the public meetings listed below.

Tuesday June 10, 2008

Sault Ste. Marie
Civic Centre – Russ Ramsay Room
4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday June 11, 2008

Sault Ste. Marie Region
Conservation Authority Office
4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Thursday June 12, 2008

Prince Township Municipal Office
4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Written comments regarding the draft proposed Terms of Reference must be submitted by June 23, 2008 to:

Loralei Premo, SPC Administrator
Sault Ste. Marie Region
Conservation Authority
1100 Fifth Line East, Sault Ste. Marie,
ON P6A 5K7
Fax: 705-946-8533
Email: lpremo@ssmrca.ca

