

## 8 POLICY DEVELOPMENT

### 8.1 DRAFT PROPOSED SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN

Before the Source Protection Committee could begin the task of researching and creating policies to protect water, a full understanding of the vulnerable areas within the CTC Source Protection Region and what threats existed in those vulnerable areas needed to take place. All the research was compiled into the Assessment Reports which were completed and submitted to the Province in 2010, with updated versions submitted in July 2011 and approval by the Province in January 2012. Further updates to portions of the Assessment Reports were submitted in late 2014 and early 2015 and were approved in July 2015 (see Chapter 4.1.2). The maps for these wells contained in this Approved Source Protection Plan showing where policies apply (**Appendix F**) are based on the Approved Assessment Reports.

With the vulnerable areas identified and the threats enumerated, the next step for the SPC was to develop policies. In order to do this, a Source Protection Planning Working Group (comprised of SPC members) and a Source Protection Planning Steering Committee (comprised of municipal staff) were established to begin the detailed research and consultation needed to inform the work on policy development. The Working Group and Steering Committee worked with planning consultants to develop a series of background reports which summarized each of the threats, where they are significant and what tools were available to address them. These reports were presented and discussed at six workshops held between January and April 2011. These workshops were attended by SPC members, municipal staff and subject-area experts (i.e., Ontario Farm Environment Coalition, TSSA) where small groups discussed appropriate policies to address the threats to drinking water sources, and to determine how these policies would be implemented. Under the SPC's authority, there are a number of different pieces of legislation, and planning tools available that were selected, as the most suitable approach to achieving its objectives. These workshops resulted in a set of draft policy options that were presented to the SPC at a two-day workshop in June 2011. The SPC members reviewed each threat and selected (by consensus or vote if consensus not achieved) what they believed was the most appropriate policy option to stop an activity from being a significant threat and to prevent an activity from becoming a significant threat in the future. Additional workshops for groundwater quantity threats and Lake Ontario threats were held in August and September 2011, respectively, and followed a similar process.

The CTC Source Protection Committee approved the draft policies for pre-consultation with implementing bodies in September 2011.

Chapter 5.1 of this document describes the process followed by the SPC to assess and revise the policies during the pre-consultation and first public consultation stages taking into account the comments made and reviewing what other SPCs were proposing for similar threats.

## **8.2 AMENDED PROPOSED SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN**

Throughout 2012-2013, between submission of the Proposed Source Protection Plan and receipt of comments from the Ministry of the Environment, the CTC Source Protection Region continued to engage implementing bodies in preparations for implementation of the Source Protection Plan. This included workshops on using the maps and determining if policies apply for municipal and conservation authority staff; launching an online map tool with searching functions to identify if a property was located in a vulnerable area and linked to the policies that could apply, as well as the verification of significant threats in parts of the Credit Valley Source Protection Area in the CTC Source Protection Region. New policies were drafted to address new water quantity threats in vulnerable areas around wells serving Georgetown and Acton in Halton Region and around wells in York Region and parts of western Durham Region.

Although the formal review comments on the Proposed Source Protection Plan which was submitted in October 2012 were not received until June 18, 2014, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change staff provided an iterative series of draft comments to the CTC beginning in October 2013 with initial comments during the public consultation in Halton Region on draft water quantity policies. The initial groundwater quality comments were received in February 2014 and initial Lake Ontario policy comments in April 2014. This allowed the CTC Source Protection Committee to begin revisions of the Source Protection Plan.

### **8.2.1 Water Quantity Policies**

Draft comments on the water quantity policies were received from MOE in October 2013 and a revised version in January 2014. The CTC Source Protection Committee considered revisions to these policies to respond to the comments on February 4, 2014. Planning staff initiated revisions to the water quantity

policies based on SPC direction and delegations received. On March 20, 2014 CTC staff hosted a consultation working session on the water quantity policies to review any outstanding concerns with affected implementing bodies. Following this session and taking the discussion into consideration staff made further revisions to the water quantity policies in preparation for further public consultation.

Pre-consultation with the MOE, the CTC and neighbouring Source Protection Committees, affected municipalities and any other implementing body on the proposed revisions to water quantity policies was held prior to a joint public consultation with South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region (see **Chapter 5** for full details).

### **8.2.2 Water Quality Policies**

On February 7, 2014 CTC staff received initial comments from the MOE on the water quality policies. On April 23, 2014, the CTC Source Protection Committee reviewed and provided direction to staff on the MOE comments received on the water quality policies. While the Source Protection Committee made decisions on many of the comments at that meeting, a number of policies required further information prior to a formal Source Protection Committee decisions.

On May 7, 2014, water quality policies were discussed with Halton Region, Towns of Halton Hills and Erin, and County of Wellington staff. Staff attended another meeting with Halton Region and MOE staff on May 22, 2014 to discuss prohibition policies in portions of Issue Contributing Areas.

Following these discussions, the Amended Proposed water quality policies were approved by the CTC Source Protection Committee for public consultation at the June 24, 2014 meeting (see **Chapter 5** for full details).

### **8.2.3 Lake Ontario Policies**

On April 11, 2014 CTC staff received initial comments from MOE on the Lake Ontario policies which were submitted in the Proposed Source Protection Plan on October 22, 2012 to the Minister of the Environment. Staff and members of the Lake Ontario Working Group met to review the comments on April 24, 2014. At this meeting, Working Group members discussed the comments and provided direction to staff to move forward with policy revisions in preparation for the May 27, 2014 Source Protection Committee meeting.

Following these discussions, the Amended Proposed Lake Ontario Policies were approved by the CTC Source Protection Committee for public consultation at the June 24, 2014 meeting. However it was recognized that due to the late receipt of the formal comments from the Ministry on June 18, 2014, that the SPC had not had sufficient time to fully explore and discuss with ministry staff resolutions to their concerns with the Lake Ontario policies. Therefore the SPC undertook to revisit the comments on these policies in the fall of 2014 along with any additional comments received during the public consultation.

In September 2014, the SPC directed the formation of a Lake Ontario Working Group to revisit MOECC concerns on the Lake Ontario policies. Prior to the Lake Ontario Working Group meeting, the SPC member for Toronto, and CTC staff met with MOECC to discuss options to address outstanding issues. Policy revisions were provided to the Lake Ontario Working Group which, along with staff and MOECC met several times over the following two weeks to discuss the new policy suggestions along with the other referred policies. Staff were directed to make revisions to all the deferred policies based on Working Group direction. On October 29, 2014 the Working Group met by teleconference, and after discussion of the revisions, approved the Lake Ontario policies and explanatory notes as their recommendations to the CTC SPC for formal approval.

#### **8.2.4 Receipt of Formal Comments and Resubmission**

On June 18, 2014, the three Source Protection Authority Chairs received the formal comments on the CTC Proposed Source Protection Plan from the Director, Source Protection Programs Branch. These comments built on the earlier draft comments. As detailed above, the Source Protection Committee had begun to, or had addressed many comments the Director outlined in her letter. On June 24, 2014, the CTC Source Protection Committee met and endorsed the Amended Proposed Source Protection Plan policies for a 35-day public consultation period and also posted the Director's letter as part of the consultation material.

Chapter 5.1 of this document describes the process followed by the SPC to assess and revise the policies during the pre-consultation and formal consultation on the Amended Source Protection Plan policies. Following the consultation period, comments were considered and taken to the SPC in September 2014. SPC directed staff to make changes, resolve any outstanding Lake Ontario policy concerns (as detailed,

above), and bring the Amended Source Protection Plan to the SPC for final endorsement and approval in November 2014.

Following the Source Protection Committee endorsement of the Amended Proposed Source Protection Plan on November 13, 2014, the Chairs of the Source Protection Authority jointly submitted the Amended Proposed Source Protection Plan and Explanatory Document to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change on December 15, 2014.