

## 4 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN

The policies in this SPP have been written to achieve the objectives identified in the *General Regulation* under the CWA. These objectives are as follows:

1. To protect existing and future drinking water sources in the SPA.
2. To ensure that, for every area identified in an Assessment Report as an area where an activity is, or would be, a significant drinking water threat:
  - the activity never becomes a significant drinking water threat,
  - if the activity is occurring when the SPP takes effect, the activity ceases to be a significant drinking water threat.

### 4.1 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SOURCE PROTECTION PLANNING DOCUMENTS

While the SPP is a stand-alone document, there are supplementary documents that have been developed for those who may wish to obtain more information about source water protection. These documents are:

- Terms of Reference
- Assessment Reports
- Explanatory Document

#### 4.1.1 Terms of Reference

There are three Terms of Reference documents; one for each watershed area within the CTC SPR:

- Credit Valley Source Protection Area (CVSPA)
- Toronto and Region Source Protection Area (TRSPA)
- Central Lake Ontario Source Protection Area (CLOSPA)

The Terms of Reference documents were the first documents to be completed. They are the work plans that describe the responsibilities of involved groups and stakeholders, timelines and projected costs. The Terms of Reference were submitted to the Ministry of the Environment in December 2008 and approved in August 2009.

#### 4.1.2 The Assessment Reports

There are three Assessment Reports (**see Appendix A**) – one for each SPA within the CTC SPR:

- Credit Valley Source Protection Area
- Toronto and Region Source Protection Area
- Central Lake Ontario Source Protection Area

The Assessment Reports are technical documents that provide the scientific understanding that is the basis of the SPP. The Assessment Reports describe:

- the local watershed and assess available water supply
- the vulnerable areas and risks to drinking water
- the maps of the vulnerable areas
- the vulnerability of those areas
- the water quality and quantity issues related to water sources
- an assessment of the risk to water systems

The Assessment Reports are ‘living documents’ that will be continually updated and amended as new information becomes available. The Assessment Reports also identify the work that must be undertaken before the SPP is completed. The Assessment Reports are based on the completion of detailed technical studies. These reports underwent a peer review process that enabled scientists and other experts to evaluate the technical work for technical completeness and whether it met the provincial rules and guidelines.

The CTC proposed Assessment Reports were submitted to the Ministry of the Environment for approval in December 2010. At that time, additional research was being carried out. The new information was then used to update the reports which were submitted to the Ministry of the Environment in July 2011 and were approved in January 2012 (**Appendix A**). Further updates to portions of the Assessment Reports were submitted in late 2014 and early 2015 and were approved in July 2015. The latest update includes revised Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs) and updates the threats assessment and identification around wells owned and operated by the Region of Halton near Georgetown and Acton (Town of Halton Hills). Other updates to the Assessment Reports include the results of the Tier 3 Water

Budget studies for both Region of Halton wells serving Halton Hills; and all of the Region of York wells and Region of Durham wells in Uxville. The maps for these wells contained in this Approved Source Protection Plan showing where policies apply (**Appendix F**) are based on the new vulnerable areas delineated in the Approved Assessment Reports.

#### 4.1.3 The Explanatory Document

The Explanatory Document explains how the policies in the Source Protection Plan were developed and provides a rationale and guide as to what the SPC intends each policy to do to protect the sources of drinking water. The Explanatory Document is not a legally binding document, but is required by legislation to support the SPP. It includes a record of the rationale that was used to develop the policies in the SPP. In short, it documents the ‘thinking’ behind the SPP. The Explanatory Document will be of interest to implementing bodies, the Source Protection Authority, stakeholders, the Minister and members of the general public who may wish to understand the intent that the SPC used to prepare the SPP. By disclosing the underlying rationale that was used to develop specific policy approaches, the Explanatory Document supports a transparent decision making process. The Explanatory Document also includes the comments received by stakeholders throughout the development of the Source Protection Plan, and how the Source Protection Committee addressed these comments in the drafting of the SPP. The Explanatory Document and Summary of Consultation Comments can be found at [www.ctcswp.ca](http://www.ctcswp.ca).