

5 CONSULTATION PROCESS: OVERVIEW

Public involvement and consultation has been a strong priority in this program with many legislated requirements. A variety of approaches and different media were used to engage the public, including:

- media releases
- newspaper advertisements
- letters to landowners
- public open houses
- the publication and distribution of newsletters and other informational brochures
- hosting and maintaining a website
- presentations to municipal councils, community and business groups
- attendance at trade shows, environmental fairs and festivals

Public consultation on the Terms of Reference was held in the summer of 2008 and included seven public meetings. The public consultation on the three Assessment Reports was held in the spring of 2010 (CLOSPA) and the fall of 2010 (TRSPA and CVSPA). The three reports were posted on the CTC website and paper copies were made available at Conservation Authority offices. Letters were sent to approximately 15,000 residents identified as owning property in vulnerable areas. All local and regional/county municipalities were also notified. Ten public open houses were held throughout the CTC to consult on the draft Assessment Reports. These open houses were advertised in local newspapers and electronic newsletters were emailed to subscribers. When all three Assessment Reports were updated or amended in the spring of 2011, municipalities and potentially affected landowners were notified and provided an opportunity to comment.

For the 2014 update, consultation began in the fall of 2013 with a mail out to residents affected by the Tier 3 Water Budget in Halton Hills. Staff also set up a booth at the Georgetown fall fair. In the spring of 2014 a public open house was held in Whitchurch-Stouffville to inform the public about the results of the Tier 3 Water Budget study for York and Durham Regions.

5.1 SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN CONSULTATION

5.1.1 Notice of Commencement of Source Protection Planning

In April 2011, letters advising of the commencement of source protection planning were distributed to municipal Clerks and 15,000 persons who were identified as potentially engaging in significant threat activities. The letters advised of the commencement of source protection planning, that the plans have the potential to impact them and that there was funding available through the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP), a funding program designed to assist property owners address significant threats.

5.1.2 Pre-Consultation

After draft Source Protection Plan policies were developed, municipalities and provincial ministries that were identified to implement policies were provided the opportunity to comment on the policies in a 'pre-consultation' process. A letter was sent in August 2011 to all municipal contacts to provide them with advance notice of the impending pre-consultation that was set to begin in October 2011. The contents of this letter were coordinated with staff at neighbouring Source Protection Regions so that municipalities straddling more than one SPR received coordinated messaging. Official notice of pre-consultation was distributed to all municipal Clerks in mid-October and was followed by a series of municipal workshops that took place as follows:

- November 15, 2011: Durham Region (with Trent Conservation Coalition (TCC) and South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe (SGBLS))
- November 23, 2011: York Region (with SGBLS)
- November 30, 2011: Peel Region (with SGBLS)
- December 6, 2011: Dufferin County (with Lake Erie and SGBLS)
- December 9, 2011: Lake Ontario policies (with TCC and Halton-Hamilton)
- December 13, 2011: Halton Region (with Halton-Hamilton)
- December 13, 2011: Wellington County (with Lake Erie)

The purpose of these workshops was to provide municipal staff and councillors the opportunity to meet with source protection staff and SPC members from all the Source Protection Areas within their municipality in an informal workshop to review the draft policies and Explanatory Document. The workshops also provided an opportunity for municipal staff/councillors to ask questions to ensure their

formal comments on the policies were as well informed as possible. The joint workshops also helped source protection staff and SPC members to hear feedback on both the CTC policies and those being proposed by adjacent SPCs in an effort to harmonize the policies to the greatest extent possible. A summary of the comments received during pre-consultation and how they were considered in preparing the Draft Proposed Source Protection Plan is found in the Summary of Consultation Comments.

5.1.3 Formal Consultation on the Draft Proposed Source Protection Plan

The first formal consultation on the Draft Proposed Source Protection Plan and Explanatory Document began on March 19, 2012 and ended May 1, 2012. The legislation required a consultation period of a minimum of 35 days, however the SPC provided a 43 day consultation period.

The first formal consultation involved sending notices to all municipal Clerks, implementing bodies and adjacent Source Protection Regions advising of the start of formal consultation. In addition to sending notice to municipalities and other implementing bodies and industries identified as significant threats to municipal drinking water systems in Lake Ontario, approximately 22,000 direct mailings were sent to residents and landowners potentially affected by significant threat policies. These mailings contained:

- notification of Draft Proposed Source Protection Plan public consultation
- map of nearby vulnerable areas
- magazine describing the Assessment Report process and findings
- brochure about the Source Protection Plan process
- a comment form and a postage paid envelope to submit comments

These materials and a copy of the Draft Proposed Source Protection Plan were also posted online. Subscribers to the CTC electronic mailing lists were notified. Advertisements were placed in 17 local and regional newspapers covering the CTC Source Protection Region with information on open houses and where to view copies of the SPP. Printed copies of the Draft Proposed Source Protection Plan were available at four Conservation Authority offices, and at 24 local libraries. A series of seven evening open houses took place as follows (a minimum of three meetings was required, one in each SPA):

- April 3, 2012: Town of Halton Hills
- April 5, 2012: Nobleton
- April 10, 2012: Durham Region

- April 11, 2012: Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
- April 17, 2012: Town of Mono
- April 19, 2012: City of Brampton
- April 26, 2012: Town of Erin

At the May 1, 2012, CTC SPC meeting, members received six invited deputations from representatives of industry and agriculture, and the municipalities impacted by water quantity policies in Dufferin County. Comments submitted during the first formal consultation period were considered by the SPC in revising policies to prepare the Proposed Source Protection Plan. A summary of the comments received during this first consultation and how they were considered in preparing the Proposed Source Protection Plan can be found in the Summary of Consultation Comments. The Proposed Source Protection Plan was then subject to a second 30 day formal consultation as required by legislation.

This second formal consultation ran between September 7, 2012 to October 8, 2012 under the direction of the respective Source Protection Authorities who were required to send notice to all municipal Clerks, other implementing bodies, adjacent Source Protection Regions, and anyone who submitted written comments during the first formal consultation period. The Proposed Source Protection Plan and Explanatory Document were posted online and written comments were due by the deadline of October 8, 2012.

The Proposed Source Protection Plan was not further revised to address comments submitted during the second formal consultation. However, the comments were submitted to the Minister of the Environment for his approval decision along with the Proposed Source Protection Plan and Explanatory Document on October 22, 2012.

5.1.4 Informal Consultation on the Amended Proposed Source Protection Plan

In the fall of 2013, consultation was undertaken to engage implementing bodies and inform affected property owners in Halton Region and the County of Wellington who, due to completed technical work, were newly included in a vulnerable area subject to SPP policies. This consultation included notification to Clerks of affected municipalities (Region of Halton, Town of Halton Hills, County of Wellington, and Town of Erin). Approximately 3,100 letters were mailed to properties in the Significant Water Quantity Threat Area, where no consultation or communication had previously taken place. A public open house

was held on Saturday October 19, 2013 from 8 AM to 12 noon at the Downtown Georgetown Farmers' Market.

In the spring of 2014, the results of the Tier 3 Water Budget for York and Durham Regions were approved for public consultation. This included public consultation on water quantity policies that would apply in this area. This public consultation was held jointly with the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region (York is in both the CTC and SGBLS SPRs) and took place from April 24 to May 23, 2014 and consisted of newspaper advertising, posting of material online, as well as a public open house held May 7, 2014 in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Notices were also provided to the Clerks of each affected municipality (Region of York, City of Vaughan, Township of King, Town of Aurora, Town of Richmond Hill, Town of Markham, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville; Region of Durham, Township of Uxbridge).

5.1.5 Formal Consultation on the Amended Source Protection Plan

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. The consultation took place from July 18 to August 22, 2014. The Amended Proposed Source Protection Plan and new explanatory material was posted on the CTC Source Protection Committee website (www.ctcswp.ca) along with telephone and email contact information to reach staff. Newspaper advertisements were placed in local weekly papers across the CTC Source Protection Region and in publications which target the agricultural community. In addition, notices and copies of the SPP and explanatory materials were sent to all implementing bodies (municipal, provincial, source protection authority, federal and industry). Copies of materials were available for viewing at each source protection office.

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.