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December 15, 2021

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From: Chitra Gowda <cgowda@hrca.on.ca>

Sent: December 15, 2021 6:46 PM

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Subject: Notice of Public Consultation: Proposed Updates to the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Plan

Good afternoon,

On behalf of the Chair of the Source Protection Committee of the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region

It is my pleasure to provide notice of public consultation and invite comments on proposed updates to the assessment reports and source protection plan that result from a review carried out under section 36 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. Please see the attached notice and letter.

Comments received from early engagement and pre-consultation stages were reviewed. The updated documents and change logs are posted for public consultation at www.protectingwater.ca Please submit written comments by February 4, 2022 as indicated in the notice. If you have any questions, please contact:

Chitra Gowda (she/her/hers), M.A.Sc., EP

Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Source Protection

Conservation Halton

2596 Britannia Road West, Burlington, ON L7P 0G3

Office: 905-336-1158 ext. 2237 | Email: cgowda@hrca.on.ca

conservationhalton.ca

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RECOMMENDED

DIRECTION REQUIRED _____

RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒ _____

Subject: Source Protection Plan Public Consultation, Section 36 Updates

On behalf of the Source Protection Committee for the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region, it is my pleasure to invite comments on **proposed updates to the assessment reports and source protection plan** as part of public consultation under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*.

PUBLIC NOTICE

DECEMBER 15, 2021

 **We are listening, tell us what you think!**

UPDATES TO THE HALTON-HAMILTON SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN

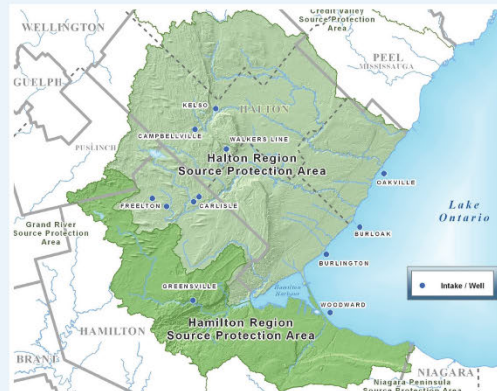
Ontario's Clean Water Act (2006) serves as a watershed-based community initiative to protect existing and future sources of municipal drinking water. This initiative includes the Halton-Hamilton Assessment Reports and Source Protection Plan. These documents are currently being updated, and the changes could apply to properties in drinking water protection zones. If you live in Halton or Hamilton, **we want to hear your feedback about the proposed updates.**

The documents can be found at protectingwater.ca and comments must be submitted in writing by email or received through regular mail by **February 4, 2022** to:

Chitra Gowda, Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Source Protection
2596 Britannia Road West, Burlington, ON L7P 0G3
sourceprotection@hrca.on.ca | 905.336.1158 ext. 2237

Printed copies can be found at the municipal offices listed below excluding statutory holidays, until **February 4, 2022**. Please note that COVID-19 restrictions can impact the ability to view printed copies. Please check municipality websites or call their office before your visit.

- Hamilton City Hall, Clerk's counter, 71 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5 from Monday to Friday from 8:30am–4:30pm. hamilton.ca
- Regional Municipality of Halton, Clerk's counter, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, ON, L6M 3L1, by appointment only by emailing sourcewater@halton.ca halton.ca/For-Residents/New-Coronavirus/Access-to-Regional-Services-during-COVID-19



You are also invited to attend a virtual public information session to learn more about the proposed updates. Please use the weblink below to register at least one day in advance:

January 13, 2022 (7pm–8pm)

<https://bit.ly/Session1Jan13>

January 20, 2022 (11am–12pm)

<https://bit.ly/Session2Jan20>

If you are unable to attend, the sessions will be recorded and posted, with frequently asked questions, at protectingwater.ca

Proposed Updates

As indicated in the pre-consultation materials sent previously, proposed updates include:

Assessment Reports

- Updated vulnerability scores for the Wellhead Protection Areas of the Campbellville, Kelso, Walkers Line, Carlisle and Greensville municipal drinking water systems (and related background technical studies)
- Updated Wellhead Protection Areas delineation and vulnerability scores for the Freelon municipal drinking water system (and related background technical studies)
- Updated mapping for managed lands, livestock density and impervious surfaces
- Updated potential significant threat activity counts
- Updated Intake Protection Zones and vulnerability scores for the Burlington, Burloak and Oakville municipal drinking water systems and updates scores for the Woodward municipal drinking water system (and related background technical studies)
- Updates to align with the 2017 Technical Rules, including adding the “establishment and operation of a liquid hydrocarbon pipeline” as a prescribed threat (and removed from descriptions as a local threat) and conducting a threats assessment; removal of sodium and chloride references from the circumstances related to on-site sewage systems and holding tanks, etc.

Source Protection Plan

- Updated policy format for the source protection plan.
- Updated and new policies of the source protection plan to address implementation challenges, reflect the updated list of prescribed drinking water threat activities under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, and address early comments received in July 2021 from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and municipal staff.

The comments received from early engagement and pre-consultation stages were reviewed. Since the pre-consultation stage ended in early December 2021, minor changes were made to the assessment reports including correcting minor editorial (typing) errors; updating general information in the watershed characterization section; moving maps into a separate appendix; and updating the consultation and collaboration appendix.

Since the pre-consultation stage ended in early December 2021, notable changes to the source protection plan include:

- Definition of existing threat: revised to remove the ten-year limit and to require that a proponent demonstrate intent of resuming an activity. Existing threats would be subject to policies to manage risks. The edits will help prevent unintended prohibitions (applicable to certain future threats), given the high growth and development area that HHSPR is characterized by. Examples of “demonstrated intent” are included in the Explanatory Document.

- Policy G-1: revised to enhance clarity around plan amendments and to add a policy effective date for risk management plans for existing threats.
- Policy T-26-C: revised to address existing threat activities of the application of commercial fertilizer, along with future threats.
- Policies T-21-C and T-26-C: revised to revert back to the current approved policy implementing body, OMAFRA. As discussed at the October 5, 2021 Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee (HHSPC) meeting, the pre-consultation comments from OMAFRA and MECP on policies T-21-C and T-26-C (which use nutrient management plans) will be addressed in a subsequent update to the source protection plan. This approach and timing would allow for MECP to provide details and logistics for consistency across the province with other SPCs, to change the implementing body from OMAFRA to persons certified by OMAFRA to prepare nutrient management plans.
- Policy T-52-C part b: revised to direct MECP to make all monitoring and reporting requirements publicly available at Access Environment to determine if any changes were made to effluent limits and monitoring requirements.
- Policies T-2-C, T-13-C, T-27-C, T-31-C, T-43-C, T-54-C: revised to recommend the continuation of existing education and outreach (E&O) programs and to begin new E&O for newly identified significant drinking water threats.
- Policy O-4-S: terminology “importation of fill”, is replaced with: “excess fill/excess soil including but not limited to contaminated soil” per discussions at the October 5, 2021 Source Protection Committee meeting to harmonize terminology from O. Reg. 406/19 and the original intent of the committee.
- Policy O-5-S: revised to recommend that MTO, Transport Canada and the MECP Spills Action Centre work together to develop and implement an E&O program.

As indicated in the notice of public consultation, the source protection plan, explanatory documents and assessment reports are posted at www.protectingwater.ca. Also posted are comments received through early engagement and pre-consultation and responses as well as detailed change logs.

Comments received as part of the public consultation process will also be reviewed, and further changes could be made to the assessment reports and source protection plan.

Should questions arise, please contact **Chitra Gowda, Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Source Protection** by email at sourceprotection@hrca.on.ca or phone: 905-336-1158 ext. 2237.

Sincerely,



Robert Edmondson, Chair

Source Protection Committee for the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region

cc:

- Elizabeth Forrest, Liaison Officer, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Erin Harkins, Program Analyst, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Barbara Veale, Director, Planning and Watershed Management, Conservation Halton
- Scott Peck, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Director, Watershed Planning & Engineering, Hamilton Conservation Authority.

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