

Halton Region Source Protection Authority Board of Directors Meeting - November 26, 2020

ZOOM WEBINAR:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86200415756?pwd=YkZpWndOVzdmbXBqL29OcjFmYzhNQk09> Passcode:
192691





Zoom virtual meeting



Start: Thursday, November 26, 2020 - 3:00pm

End: Thursday, November 26, 2020 - 3:15pm

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1. Roll Call
 2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest for Halton Region Source Protection Authority Board of Directors
 3. Acceptance of Agenda
 4. Consent Items
 - 4.1. Halton Source Protection Authority Meeting Minutes dated September 24 - DRAFT
 Halton Source Protection Authority Meeting Minutes dated September 24 - DRAFT - SEPT 24.pdf
 - 4.2. HSPA 03 20 01 - MEMO - Clean Water Technical Rules ERO - November 2020
 HSPA 03 20 01 - Info re Clean Water Act Technical Rules ERO Nov. 2020.pdf
 HSAP 03 20 01 - Info re Clean Water Act Technical Rules - Attachment
 - 4.3. HSPA 03 20 02 - MEMO - HSPA Member Recruitment
 HSPA 03 20 02 - MEMO - SPC Member Recruitment.pdf
 5. Other Business
 6. Adjournment
-

MEETING NO: # 02 20 HALTON REGION SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Halton Region Source Protection Authority Board of Directors took place on Thursday, September 24 at 3:03 p.m. via Video Conference

Members Present:

Hamza Ansari
Mike Cluett
Rick Di Lorenzo
Joanne Di Maio
Cathy Duddeck
Allan Elgar
Dave Gittings
Zeeshan Hamid
Zobia Jawed
Moya Johnson
Gordon Krantz
Bryan Lewis
Marianne Meed Ward
Rory Nisan
Gerry Smallegange
Jim Sweetlove
Jean Williams

Absent with regrets:

Rob Burton
Steve Gilmour

Guests:

Ken Jull, Legal Counsel, Gardiner Roberts LLP
Karen Gastle, Business Development Executive, Dilitrust
Andreanne Belanger, Dilitrust Trainer

Staff present

Robin Ashton, Manager, Marketing
Kim Barrett, Associate Director, Science & Partnerships
Hassaan Basit, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
Garner Beckett, Director, CH Foundation
Adriana Birza, Manager, Office of the CAO
Tamara Boric, Project Lead, Innovation & Process Design, PMO
Niamh Buckley, Administrative Assistant, Office of the CAO
Chitra Gowda, Senior Manager, Watershed Planning & Source Protection
Meghan Hunter, Manager, Risk and Lands
Craig Machan, Associate Director, Park Operations
Kellie McCormack, Associate Director, Planning & Regulations

Marnie Piggot, Director, Finance
Plezzie Ramirez, Senior Manager, Human Resources
Jill Ramseyer, Director, Corporate Compliance
Katie Skillen, Associate Director, Marketing and Communications
Barb Veale, Director, Planning & Watershed Management
Mark Vytvytskyy, Interim Director, Parks and Operations/Executive Digital Transformation Lead
Lawrence Wagner, Senior Director, Corporate Services
Pavan Seth, Procurement Specialist

Chair Gerry Smallegange called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

1. Roll Call

2. Acceptance of Agenda as distributed

HSPA 02 01 Moved by: Marianne Meed Ward
Seconded by: Rick Di Lorenzo

THAT the Halton Region Source Protection Authority Board of Directors **accepts the Agenda as printed.**

Carried

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest for Board of Directors

There were **NONE.**

4. Presentations

DiliTrust Board Portal Training

Chair advised that going forward all meeting material will be accessible from the Dilitrust Portal one week prior to each CH Board Meeting and they will receive a notification of this through Dilitrust and the CAO Office. Should board members still wish to receive the PDF package through email that can be arranged with Adriana Birza, Manager, Office of the CAO.

5. Consent Items

Approval of the Halton Region Source Protection Authority meeting minutes dated April 26, 2020

**5.2 Source Protection Committee Member Appointment
(SPA 02 20 01)**

The consent items **were adopted.**

6. Action Items

Chair invited Barb Veale, Director Planning and Watershed to introduce Chitra Gowda, new Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Source Protection. Barb Veale introduced Chitra who has taken up this position in June 2020.

6.1 Source Water Protection Memorandum of Agreement – Conservation Halton/Hamilton Conservation Authority

HSPA 02 02

Moved by: Allan Elgar
Seconded by: Dave Gittings

THAT the Halton Region Source Protection Authority **approves the renewal of the attached Memorandum of Agreement, respecting the joint advancement of drinking water source protection within the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region, with the Hamilton Region Source Protection Authority as per Section 6(3) of the Clean Water Act, effective from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2025.**

Carried

7. Other Business

There was no other business

8. Adjournment

HSPA 01 03

Moved by: Zobia Jawed

THAT the Halton Region Source Protection Authority Board of Directors meeting be **adjourned at 3:30 p.m.**

Carried

Signed by: Hassaan Basit, President & CEO/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: October 22, 2020

REPORT TO: Halton Region Source Protection Authority Board of Directors

REPORT NO: # HSPA 02 20 01

FROM: Chitra Gowda, Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Source Protection

DATE: November 26, 2020

SUBJECT: **Clean Water Act Technical Rules**
No. 019-2219
File No. PPO 061

Recommendation

THAT the Halton Region Source Protection Authority Board of Directors **receives for information the Staff report Clean Water Act Technical Rules**

Report

The Director's Technical Rules made under the Clean Water Act, 2006 ("technical rules") are overarching technical methodologies developed by the province. They are applied to local watershed science, to create drinking water vulnerable areas and to identify risks in these areas. This information forms the basis of the policies of drinking water source protection plans.

In August 2020, the provincial government proposed amendments to the technical rules with the goals of reducing administrative burden, providing clarity on climate change risk assessments, and enhancing the understanding of risks posed to municipal drinking water sources in Ontario.

Conservation Halton staff reviewed the proposal and contributed to a joint submission to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks from Conservation Ontario as well as provided comments independently through the Environmental Registry posting, as attached. Conservation Halton generally supports the proposed updates, with a few specific concerns. Key comments include the following:

- The province should clarify mandatory and optional amendments, and indicate which amendments are to be undertaken by source protection authorities.
- Guidance is needed to address potential situations where a drinking water vulnerable area, spanning multiple source protection plan areas, has different thresholds for the same risk.
- Additional technical information is needed to support consistent application of climate change risk assessments across watersheds.
- A guidance document containing other provincial and federal statutes that support source water protection should be provided to source protection authorities to assist committees with identifying local threats that are not prescribed by the regulation.

- Detailed technical methods and data to prove that contamination from past activities is migrating towards a municipal drinking water well or intake, should be provided.
- The implementation of source protection plan policies for the activity of road salt application is a challenge largely due to excess liability concerns. It is recommended that the province address these concerns, in order to support the mitigation of road salt impacts on water resources in Ontario.
- Clarity is needed around specific circumstances of occurrence of activities on the landscape, to support accurate identification of risks posed to drinking water sources, and risk levels.

Impact on Strategic Goals

This report supports the Metamorphosis strategic theme of Protecting our natural, cultural, and scenic assets, taking care of our growing communities, and preparing for the effects of climate change. These themes are supported through the objectives to strengthen conservation, restoration and responsible management of natural resources with a focus on evidence-based programs; and to remain dedicated to ecosystem-based watershed planning that contributes to the development of sustainable rural, urban and suburban communities.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact to this report. The duties of the Halton Region Source Protection Authority under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* are currently funded by the provincial government.

Signed & respectfully submitted:

Approved for circulation:



Chitra Gowda
Senior Manager, Watershed Planning
and Source Protection



Hassaan Basit
President and CEO/Secretary
Treasurer

FOR QUESTIONS ON CONTENT: Chitra Gowda, 905-336-1158 x2237, Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Source Protection, cgowda@hrca.on.ca



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Protecting the Natural
Environment from
Lake to Escarpment

November 9, 2020

Dr. George Jacoub, P.Eng.
Water Research Scientist/Hydrologist
Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Source Protection Programs Branch
Land and Water Division
40 St. Clair Ave. W, 4th Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1M2
Email: George.jacoub@ontario.ca

BY EMAIL

Dear Dr. Jacoub,

**RE: Proposed amendments to the Director's Technical Rules made under section 107 of the Clean Water Act, 2006
ERO No. 019-2219
CH File No.: PPO 061**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Province's proposed amendments to the Director's Technical Rules made under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* ("technical rules"), including the tables of drinking water threats.

Conservation Halton (CH) is the lead source protection authority of the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region working in strong partnership with the Hamilton Conservation Authority. CH comments are provided below organized into three main parts: general, technical rules and tables of drinking water threats.

Part 1: General comments

CH supports efforts to update the provincial technical rules, including the tables of drinking water threats, to ensure that Ontario's sources of drinking water continue to be protected through source protection planning that is supported by current science.

CH recommends that the province clarify proposed amendments that are mandatory to apply, those that are enabling, and those which will be funded under the provincial Drinking Water Source Protection program.

CH recommends that a comparison document be provided showing current and proposed threat risk circumstances and listing the policy tool options available for each of the changed sub-threat categories.

The province should provide guidance on how to address potential situations where a drinking water vulnerable area, spanning multiple source protection plan applicability areas, has different thresholds for the same threat activity.

It is recommended that the province clarify whether new threat circumstances would only apply to vulnerable areas associated with new or changed drinking water systems, or if they would apply to existing threat activities as well.

Part 2: Comments on the proposed changes to the technical rules

Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas (SGRAs)

Stakeholder concerns of water quality in SGRAs should be considered in the technical rules, alongside recharge considerations. With the proposed changes to the technical rules, conditions (contamination from past activities) can no longer be identified in SGRAs. If updated information becomes available to source protection committees, CH recommends that the technical rule 126 allow for conditions to be identified in SGRAs. This in turn allows for a consideration of policies in source protection plans to support clean water recharge to groundwater aquifers that supply municipal drinking water wells.

Use of alternate methods or approaches

While CH supports the intent of reducing administrative burden, it is recommended that additional information be provided in proposed technical rules 15.1 and 15.2 to clearly specify the stage in the assessment report update process that (a) the municipalities will be consulted with on the alternate method, and (b) the Director will review the alternate method and issue a notice to the source protection authority.

Climate change risk assessment (water quality)

CH commends the Province for their intent to strengthen the consideration of climate change impacts on source water quality under the source protection planning process to complement the current and detailed technical rules for water quality. It is recommended that technical rule 15.3 provide additional information for clarity and to support consistent application of technical methods for climate change risk assessments across watersheds.

- Include definitions for terms used in climate change risk assessments. For example, define the proposed term “resiliency” (to climate change impacts). The assessment of climate change impacts on source water quality is not a well-researched matter, therefore having definitions helps support consistency.
- Consider the recently developed climate change vulnerability assessment tool for source water quality, to add further details to the proposed technical rules such as data periods for historical and future analyses, typical steps of a climate change risk assessment, etc. Alternately, develop a bulletin that includes these details.
- Provide a detailed guidance on what to do with the outcomes of the climate change assessment, including policy options for mitigation and adaptation measures.
- Explain how to achieve harmonization with other climate change initiatives such as the provincial climate impacts assessment.
- Clarify which organization undertakes the climate change risk assessment. The proposed change indicates that source protection committees will undertake this work.

Issue Contributing Areas (ICAs)

CH is supportive of introducing ICAs as standards for vulnerable areas. It is recommended that the Province provide guidance to source protection authorities to help meet the requirement of proposed technical rules 48(7) and 78. In evidence that certain activities and conditions contribute to an identified drinking water issue, the guidance can include examples of past technical studies that have proven cumulative impacts and were approved by the Province, along with study parameters. This will help clarify whether studies such as loading estimations are acceptable.

Further, it is recommended that technical rule 114 include timelines associated with increasing trend concentrations that may result in deterioration of the quality of the water, for example, an exceedance of established standards within a specified number of years. This would support a consistent approach for municipalities that may currently be subject to inconsistent methods applied to their various drinking water systems.

Total impervious surface area (ISA) map

CH appreciates the intent of providing local flexibility in developing the maps under technical rule 16 (11). It is recommended that examples of the proposed sub-areas be provided for clarity.

Surface water vulnerability and transport pathways

CH is supportive of the intent of the proposed changes to technical rule 62.1 (to extend Intake Protection Zones -1 or IPZ1s to capture transport pathways) and to technical rules 86, 87, 89 (to allow for multiple scores within each IPZ to capture variations in land and hydrological conditions). However, CH recommends that further detailed criteria be included in the technical rules to support consistency in application across various watersheds and drinking water

intakes, and to define each area of the IPZ'. It is also recommended that technical 73 include factors of age and condition of the potential anthropogenic transport pathway.

Local activities

The proposed change to technical rule 119 appears to support an assumption that all provincial and federal legislation address drinking water source protection adequately for activities regulated under those statutes. CH recommends that the proposed technical rule 119 sub section (2) "an approval is not required to engage in the activity pursuant to any Act (Provincial or Federal); not be included in the technical rules. Alternately, the Province is recommended to provide a guidance document that lists provincial and federal statutes that can be relied on for source water protection and specify the types of activities. This will help reduce the redundancy across the province in conducting research and consulting with various government agencies and legal staff to arrive at that determination.

Conditions

The proposed wording change in technical rule 141 from "offsite" to "migrating" appears to require detailed technical data and analysis by qualified persons to verify that a contaminant is migrating to the well or intake. CH recommends that the Province specify the technical methods and data sets needed to undertake such an analysis to prove that contamination is migrating towards a municipal drinking water well or intake.

Part 3: Comments on the proposed changes to the tables of drinking water threats

Road salt application

The intent of the province to mitigate the impacts of road salt on drinking water is commended. However, the implementation of source protection plans for the activity of road salt application is a challenge largely due to excessive liability concerns. There is a priority need to review the current liability framework and also to address insurance coverage issues. Further, road salt application and storage standards should be set for contractors.

These policy implementation challenges are outside of the purview of the *Clean Water Act*. CH recommends that the province address these large concerns in order to support the mitigation of road salt impacts on water resources in Ontario.

Road salt storage and handling

Clarity is needed as to whether the proposed lowered threshold would apply to bags of road salt stored in residential areas. The province is requested to develop a municipal toolkit for education and outreach and for risk management plans.

Storage of snow

The intent of the proposed lowered snow storage area threshold should be clarified, as it appears that any size of an area of snow storage is a significant threat at a WHA of score 10.

