



UPPER THAMES RIVER ASSESSMENT REPORT

Section Summary - 9.0 Data Gaps and Next Steps

Section Summaries

The Assessment Reports for the Thames-Sydenham and Region are large summary documents compiling information from many technical reports. These technical reports include Water Budgets, Watershed Characterization Reports and many Source Protection Technical Studies related to municipal drinking water systems. That information has been summarized and compiled into Assessment Reports of the Region. Each section of the Assessment Reports has been summarized in a series of Section Summaries.

9.0 Data Gaps and Next Steps

The development of Assessment Reports is required by the Clean Water Act, the related regulations and the Technical Rules: Assessment Report. Together, these documents outline the materials that are required in Assessment Reports.

The Clean Water Act and the regulations also outline the process for developing, consulting on, submitting, and revising Assessment Reports.

This section of the Assessment Report describes the known data gaps, the plans to fill the gaps and the next steps in the Source Protection Planning process.

Data Gaps

The different types of data gaps in the Assessment Report relate to the availability of information and the timing of provincial guidance updates, such as the technical rules.

The Technical Rules: Assessment Report identifies many of the requirements of the Assessment Report. For some of these requirements, the technical rules allow for the submission of a work plan if the information necessary to complete the item is not available. These items include threats contributing to identified drinking water quality issues, Tier 3 Water Budget, Wellhead Protection Area-E (WHPA-E) and Wellhead Protection Area-F (WHPA-F) associated with systems that are Groundwater Under Direct Influence of surface water (GUDI), and Intake Protection Zone (IPZ) - 3.

Several of the gaps identified in the Proposed Assessment Report have been filled and the work included in this Amended Proposed Assessment Report. These include tier 2 water budget drought scenarios, WHPA-E work, and threats related to sewer lines.

If further information on conditions as well as the sources of issues becomes available to the SPC, the associated work would be included in a subsequent Assessment Report. A site specific risk assessment would be conducted, if needed, during the development of the source protection plan.

Table 1 lists the remaining few gaps in the Upper Thames River Source Protection Area Assessment Report. The Table also provides the anticipated work plan completion date. It is desirable that this information be completed so that it is available to the Source Protection Committee (SPC) for use in developing the Source Protection Plan. The plan is required to be submitted in August 2012.

Table 1. Work Plan to fill Data and Analysis Gaps

Gap	Planned Completion Schedule
Edge matching of HVA and SGRA with neighbouring regions	Dependent on when neighbouring regions complete HVA and SGRA maps
Impact of Climate Change	To be determined
Improved understanding of water use in Tier 3 Water Budget	Subsequent Assessment Report, dependent on other programs
Tier 3 Water Budget	Early 2012*

*Dependent upon submission of the amended Assessment Report and approved funding



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Next Steps

Prior to the submission of the Assessment Report to the Director (Ministry of the Environment), the Clean Water Act identifies consultation requirements. The required consultation is part of a more comprehensive consultation plan being conducted in the Thames-Sydenham and Region involving local and regional consultation on the draft proposed and the proposed Assessment Report, and the technical work that has informed it. Once consultation is complete and the SPC has considered input received through the consultation, the Assessment Report is submitted to the Director for approval. The Director can approve the Assessment Report or require amendments to it. Amendments required by the Director will not require consultation.

The updates and amendments to the Proposed Assessment Report are now included in this report, and will also involve consultation. The Amended Proposed Assessment Report will then be submitted to the Director for approval.

The SPC Committee has identified that the Assessment Report is, in fact, a living document that will require periodic amendments and updates. Review and update of the Assessment Report will be required as identified in the Clean Water Act. The period of the review will be determined by the Director in the approval of the Assessment Report. Aside from the required review of the report, the Source Protection Committee has the ability to amend the Assessment Report at such time when it becomes aware that the material in the Assessment Report has an effect on the Source Protection Plan developed. Any amendments to the Assessment Report will require consultation of those affected by the amendments.

For more information contact your local Conservation Authority or visit our website



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