

Incentive Draft Policies (Oct.14, 2011)

Rationale

People who voluntarily adopt changes are far more committed than those who are forced to make a change, which is essential when protecting municipal drinking water supplies. Incentive programs, which can include monetary incentives (i.e. cost-sharing, grants and loans) as well as non-monetary incentives (i.e. partnerships, technical assistance, recognition programs, information and education) promote this change in behaviour. Since there will always be a level of non-compliance in voluntary approaches, these policies have been developed in concert with regulatory policies to address reducing the risk of a significant drinking water threat.

Interpretation

I.1.0. The policies associated with incentives are directed to the prescribed drinking water threats outlined within O. Reg. 287/07. The circumstances that make these threats significant are found within the Provincial Drinking Water Threats Tables. Incentive policies will address significant threats within specific vulnerable areas identified within the table below.

Vulnerable Area	Vulnerability Score	Applicable Prescribed Drinking Water Threat	
WHPA-A,B	10	2	The establishment, operation or maintenance of a system that collects, stores, transmits, treats or disposes of sewage
		3	The application of agricultural source material to land.
		4	The storage of agricultural source material
		5	The management of agricultural source material
		8	The application of commercial fertilizer to land
		9	The handling and storage of commercial fertilizer
		10	The application of pesticide to land
		11	The handling and storage of pesticide
		12	The application of road salt
		13	The handling and storage of road salt
		15	The handling and storage of fuel
		17	The handling and storage of an organic solvents
		WHPA-A,B and C	Not applicable
IPZ	10	12	The application of road salt
		13	The handling and storage of road salt
		15	The handling and storage of fuel
IPZ, WHPA-E	9	12	The application of road salt
		13	The handling and storage of road salt

I.1.1 The implementation of the incentive policies will immediately take effect upon the approval of the first Source Protection Plan, except for those policies where a specific timeline has been established.

General

I.2.0 The province, municipalities located within the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region and other responsible agencies are encouraged to develop incentive programs, whether new or existing, for actions proposed in vulnerable areas identified in I.1.0 that would manage significant drinking water threats.

Comment [k1]: Comments from MPAC:
 -policy wording should reflect legal effect (or lack thereof) for policies i.e. Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship program may wish to reconsider the use of the word SHALL
 -any use of incentives is encouraged (ag. Community in particular when asked to do something that benefits broader community it affects personal or corporate bottom line)
 -incentives contingent on available funding (prov and fed government need to provide consistent funding)
 -the continuation of new programs should be stressed; new programs can only be created if funds are available
 -may want to be careful about using incentive programs for future threats (not provide incentive for storage to be placed where it will be considered significant if other location options are available)

Comment [k2]: Need to indicate threat status in policy (existing and future)

Comment [k3]: Based on Sheldon's comments from workshop, do we need a definition of what other responsible agencies are?

Existing Incentive Programs

I.3.0. Municipalities, Conservation Authorities within the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region, in collaboration with the Province shall consider ~~long-term~~ support of existing incentive programs including but not limited to, the Environmental Farm Plan, the Conservation Authority administered Clean Water Program and voluntary salt efficiency incentive programs such as Smart About Salt, that contribute to the protection of drinking water sources.

Comment [K4]: Discussion for committee

I.3.1 The Province, through the Ministry of Environment, shall be encouraged to continue funding the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program, as outlined in S. 97 of the Clean Water Act, 2006 and S.69 of O. Reg. 287/07, to adequately fund risk management practices for significant drinking water threats over the long term. Municipalities are encouraged to share the funding of this incentive program equally with the province. The addition of municipal funding can be used to increase the scope of the program based on local priorities.

New Incentive Programs

I.4.0 Municipalities and Conservation Authorities within the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region, in collaboration with the Province, through the Ministry of Environment, shall consider developing new incentive programs to assist with the implementation costs of risk mitigation practices for significant threats on drinking water sources. Where funding is limited, emphasis shall be on significant threat mitigation. The implementation of this policy will take effect within 2 years of the effective date of the first Source Protection Plan.

Specific Septic Incentive Programs

I.5.0 Municipalities within the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region shall consider providing incentive programs that would offer funding for inadequate septic systems that have been identified under the Phase 1 re-inspection program. Funding would be provided where septic systems present significant threats to drinking water sources, to subsidize the cost to septic owners where upgrades have been identified as mandatory to reduce significant threats. Municipalities shall consider incorporating this program into the Conservation Authority administered Clean Water Program or similar incentive programs. Municipalities shall consider providing incentive funding until the time when all significant threat septic system Phase 1 inspections have occurred. This policy will take effect immediately upon the effective date of the first Source Protection Plan and for a period of 5 years following or until all significant threats identified in the Assessment Report have undergone a septic re-inspection.

Monitoring

I.6.0 Incentive policies are subject to monitoring and reporting requirements as outlined in policy X.