

# Thames – Sydenham and Region Drinking Water Source Protection Source Protection Committee Discussion Paper

**Report to** Chair and members  
Thames – Sydenham and Region  
Source Protection Committee

**Agenda #** 2010.10.7c.iv

**Cc** SP Management Committee

**Date** October 5, 2010

**Prepared By** Ingrid Vanderschot, SP Policy Advisor  
Chris Tasker, SP Project Manager

**Re:** Source Protection Plan stakeholder engagement

## ***Background***

The SPP process will require successful collaboration and communication with Municipalities, First Nations and other stakeholders to ensure the accountability of its preparation and success of its implementation.

The Regulation requires that municipal clerks, First nation band chiefs, and any person believed to be engaged in an activity considered a significant drinking water threat, be notified when preparation of the SPP begins.

The CWA Regulation also requires SPCs to consult with affected parties during the policy development process, before the draft plan is published for initial public comment.

The SPC is required to notify and consult with any person or body who will be responsible for implementing the policies. For example, municipalities must be consulted:

- For policies affecting decisions under the Planning Act or Condominium Act;
- For significant, moderate and low threat policies that impose an obligation on the municipality;
- For policies under Part IV tools (Prohibition, RMP, Restricted Land Uses) which impose enforcement of a policy on the municipality;
- For monitoring policies in which the municipality is responsible to conduct the monitoring.

## ***Discussion***

There are a variety of methods for engaging the range of stakeholders in the SPP Process.

## **Municipal Engagement**

The municipal sectors' engagement requires consideration of council and staff. Staff involvement will require the involvement of primarily planners and building officials. The following are some methods of engagement to consider:

- *Information package:* give a regionalized and standardized message about the implications of SPP to the various municipal tiers; aim to have package out and approved by SPC late November so that municipalities have the option to distribute it to their new councils.
- *Municipal Policy Advisory Committee:* This committee would draw from Building Officials and Planners that attended the Municipal Forum last Fall. This group would review policy discussion papers and provide feedback on proposed policies.
- *Municipal Forum:* host a Municipal Forum as pre-consultation on draft policies before they are posted as Draft Proposed SPP.
- *Oxford County:* The County of Oxford has a lead role in developing policies for their drinking water systems. It will be important to work closely together with Oxford County and integrate their policy work to maintain consistency in policy development across the Thames-Sydenham Region SPA. Oxford County could also be represented in the Municipal Policy Advisory Committee, as well as relevant working groups.
- *Disclosure Service:* The Assessments Reports have generated information that should now be considered by municipalities in fulfilling their decision making responsibilities under the Planning Act. This technical information should be considered by decision makers, development proponents and landowners. Conservation Authority staff will provide a service involving the disclosure of vulnerable areas information as part of the currently offered environmental planning services.
- *Municipal System Operators:* It will also be important to continue to engage the operators of the systems which the Source Protection Plan will protect. These operators have been involved in the technical reports which have informed the Assessment Report and will be instrumental in assuring that the plan meets its objectives in protecting the drinking water sources.

## **Further Stakeholder Input**

- The SPC consists of representatives from the various stakeholder groups. The SPC will review and comment on policy discussion papers. The SPC will lead the policy development process and determine the need to further draw on stakeholder expertise for specific threats policies. The SPC will choose from a range of policy options based on agreed upon evaluative criteria.

- *Stakeholder Forums*: for threat policies that affect a particular sector, hosting a stakeholder forum may be sufficient to allow for stakeholder input and further refinement of policies within a discussion paper.
- *Working Groups*: some of the threat-based policies may require input from outside of the Source Protection Committee. These groups would provide expertise in reviewing and commenting on discussion paper policies threat by threat. The members would provide an overview of existing practices and regulations, and provide advice on the policy options. Further discussion on options for defining these groups is provided in the policy development framework discussion paper.
- *Pre-consultation*: targeted consultation will be held with sectors required to implement policies within the SPP. The regulations and the Clean Water Act provide specific requirements for pre-consultation. The use of forums and working groups will further augment the formal notification required in the regulations.
- *Public Consultation*: The regulations and the Clean Water Act require specific formal public consultation, similar to the process with the Assessment Reports, will be undertaken on the draft proposed SPP. This will be focused at a SPA level.

