

CTC Source Protection Region

Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority

April 26, 2019

Ms. Susan Ecclestone
Director (A), Source Protection Programs Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
40 St. Clair Ave West, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON, M4V 1M2

Dear Ms. Ecclestone:

In accordance with Ontario Regulation 287/07, Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority (TRSPA) is required to submit its second Annual Progress Reports to the Ministry on the implementation of the CTC Source Protection Plan by May 1, 2019. These reports document the status of policy implementation, as well as the progress in achieving the source protection plan objectives during the reporting period. These second Annual Progress Reports reflect implementation efforts between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018 (see attached).

On April 26, 2019, the Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority passed the following resolution:

THAT the TRSPA endorses the recommendation of the CTC Source Protection Committee (CTC SPC) to report to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) that the CTC Source Protection Plan (CTC SPP) is progressing well and is on target to full implementation within the timelines outlined in the Plan;

AND FURTHER THAT the comments from the CTC SPC be incorporated into correspondence from the Chair of the TRSPA to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks by the May 1st reporting deadline.

At the time the CTC Source Protection Plan was made effective, 10,412 existing significant drinking water threats were identified in the CTC Source Protection Region. At the end of the current reporting period, 942 outstanding significant drinking water threats continue to be addressed. Additionally, the majority of applicable plan policies that address significant drinking water threats have been implemented or are in progress.

At Meeting #1/19 held on March 20, 2019, the CTC Source Protection Committee requested that the following commentary be forwarded to the Ministry:

“Strategic” and “Specify Action” policies outline a discretionary obligation recommended to achieve the objectives of the source protection plan and are non-legally binding. A number of Specify Action policies are included in the CTC SPP to achieve the objective of the plan: the protection of sources of drinking water. The majority of these discretionary policies are directed towards the protection of Lake Ontario and identify the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks as responsible for implementation.

Lake Ontario is the only source of drinking water for the City of Toronto and the primary source for the Regions of Peel, York, and Durham. Several million Ontarians live and work in these municipalities. Considerable time and effort by the CTC SPC was spent in developing the content of the policies intended to protect Lake Ontario from spills.

Although the provincial annual report has indicated that the Ministry has implemented these policies and its commitment to review and consider their requirements, there is still much work to be done. The Ministry has reported that spill response and notification procedures have been updated to determine geo-spatially if a spill is in a vulnerable area under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. Additional outstanding requirements of the policies include the review of reporting thresholds for tritium, the evaluation of Risk Mitigation Plans to address potential spills, and carrying out emergency response preparedness exercises.

The City of Toronto, Peel Region, and Durham Region have committed to funding the actions in the Lake Ontario policies and have been working diligently to achieve the requirements of the policies. Understanding the vulnerability of surface water intakes on and verifying drinking water threats to Lake Ontario requires a substantial, multi-jurisdictional effort. The Province is best suited to lead the effort as the collaborative nature and scope of work is beyond the means of individual municipalities. We urge the MECP to make implementation of these policies a priority given Lake Ontario's value as a source of drinking water.

The Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority emphasizes the serious consideration that should be given to the CTC Source Protection Plan policies directed at protecting Lake Ontario as a source of municipal drinking water. The Lake Ontario policies focus largely on the nearshore zone of Lake Ontario from the shoreline to approximately five kilometers offshore. The drinking water intakes along the north shore of Lake Ontario are all located within this zone which represents the primary source of drinking water for the majority of Ontario's population. The nearshore zone is susceptible to discharge of contaminants from activities associated with urban, industrial and agricultural uses. These lands nearest Lake Ontario are also experiencing high levels of urban growth. These policies encourage the increased collaboration between municipal and provincial governments in an effort to achieve a common goal; the safety of our drinking water.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, or the CTC Source Protection Plan 2018 Annual Report, please contact Jennifer Stephens at 416-892-9634 or jstephens@trca.on.ca.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Innis
Chair, Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority

cc:

John Mackenzie, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority
Jennifer Stephens, Manager - Source Water Protection, Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority