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## **CTC Source Protection Region**

Source Protection Committee

April 4, 2019

Ms. Jennifer Innis Chair, Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority 101 Exchange Avenue Vaughan, Ontario L4K 5R6

Dear Ms. Innis:

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 March 20, 2019, the CTC Source Protection Committee passed the following resolution:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT a summary of implementation activities in 2018 obtained through Annual Reports submitted by February 1, 2019 be received by the CTC SPC for input on progress achieved in accomplishing source protection plan objectives;

AND FURTHER THAT CTC SPR staff be directed to take the necessary action to communicate the Committee's assessment of implementation progress as well as any feedback from the CTC SPC to the Credit Valley, Toronto & Region, and Central Lake Ontario Source Protection Authorities at meetings scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup>, April 16<sup>th</sup>, and April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

It is the opinion of the CTC Source Protection Committee that implementation of the CTC Source Protection Plan has been *progressing well and is on target* towards achieving the plan objectives during this reporting period (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018).

At the time the CTC Source Protection Plan was made effective, 10,412 existing significant drinking water threats were identified in the Credit Valley – Toronto and Region – Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Source Protection Region (SPR). 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 are implemented or in progress.

At Meeting #1/19 held on March 20, 2019, the 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 covered by 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 within the Lake Ontario policies and have been working diligently to achieve the requirements of these 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.

On behalf of the CTC Source Protection Committee, the Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority is now tasked with considering these Annual Progress Reports and submitting them to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, together with the Committee's comments, and any comments the source protection authority wishes to make. Similarly, both Credit Valley and Central Lake Ontario Source Protection Authorities are reviewing the comments received from the CTC Source Protection Committee and will report their assessment of implementation status to the Ministry within the same timeframe.

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 <a href="mailto:jetephens@trca.on.ca">jetephens@trca.on.ca</a>.

Sincerely,

Douglas Wright

Doug Wright

Chair, CTC Source Protection Committee

## Copy to:

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