

Drinking Water Source Protection

Risk Management

How can you help reduce risks to drinking water?

Drinking water source protection is the first barrier of protection focussed on preventing contaminants from entering the drinking water system.

You can help reduce risks to municipal drinking water sources by:

- using best management practices on your farm, business, municipal, or other property, and
- developing risk management plans, if required, for your property under source protection plans.



Risk Management Plans

What do plans require?

The local Source Protection Plan requires you to work with a Risk Management Official to complete a risk management plan (RMP) if you undertake an activity that is assessed as a significant threat to municipal drinking water sources.

Feel free to contact Drinking Water Source Protection staff or your Risk Management Official to find out if you require an RMP.

What are source protection plans?

Community members from municipalities, industry, commerce, agriculture, health and environmental sectors, and the public have been working on a 15-member committee since 2007 on the first three phases of source protection planning.

The Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee (SPC) has been working to develop:

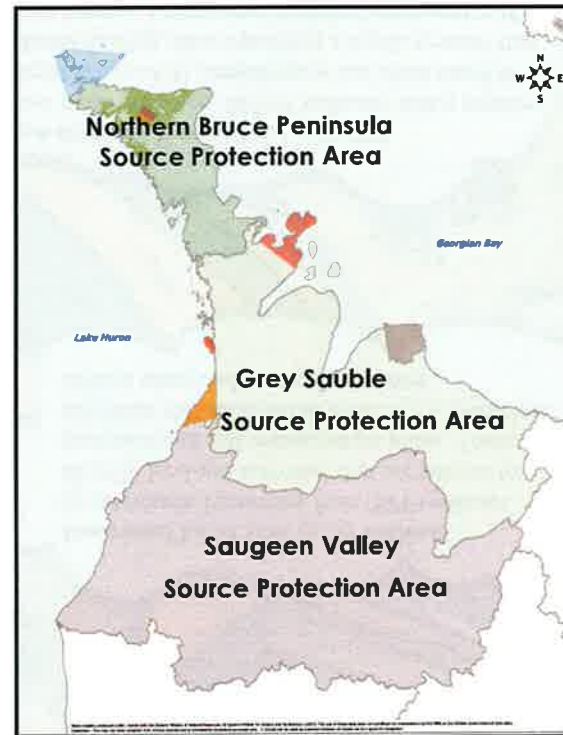
- Terms of reference
- Assessment Reports (containing technical work)
- Source Protection Plans (containing policies)

After in-depth consultation with the public, changes and updates, these documents are complete and have been approved by the Province of Ontario.

A Source Protection Plan creates policies to protect your community's drinking water sources, such as municipal wells and intakes, from contamination or depletion.

Source Protection Plan policies are directed at the 21 significant drinking water threats and apply only in certain circumstances in specific areas around municipal water sources.

Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region



For more information:
Risk Management Office
c/o Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
237897 Inglis Falls Road, RR 4
Owen Sound, Ontario, N4K 5N6

Tel: 519-470-3000 Toll-free: 1-877-470-3001
Fax: 519-470-3005
rmo@greysauble.on.ca
www.waterprotection.ca

This project has received funding support from the Government of Ontario. Such support does not indicate endorsement by the Government of the contents of this material.

This publication has been created for local information purposes and may be subject to change.

June 2016

What is a risk management plan?

A risk management plan regulates activities that pose a **significant drinking water threat** to municipal drinking water sources.

The risk management plan (RMP) includes best management practices designed to ensure that risks to the municipal drinking water source are reduced or eliminated. The RMP is required to identify any impacts or mitigation measures. The plan is generally negotiated between the person doing the activity and a risk management official.

What is a risk management official?

A risk management official (RMO) is appointed by the municipality and trained to standards set by provincial regulation. Their training includes biosecurity, health and safety, and more.

The RMO negotiates risk management plans with persons engaged in a **land-use activity**, and issues notices in certain areas regarding changes in land uses (e.g. new building construction, or changes).

What is a risk management inspector?

A risk management inspector (RMI) inspects activities to ensure compliance with the risk management plan. The RMI verifies activities occurring on properties with landowners and those engaged in activities.

When can activities be significant threats to water?

A land-use activity could threaten drinking water if:

- It is located near a municipal drinking water well or intake,
- The activity has not been prohibited,
- The activity is not properly managed,
- The activity is taking place in certain quantities or circumstances, and, or
- The activity occurs in an area that may contribute water to the intake during an extreme event such as a flood

Restricted Land Uses (s. 59 notices)

Local Source Protection Plan (SPP) policies identify land-use activities that are subject to prohibition or risk management plans. These activities are identified in local SPPs, municipal official plans and/or zoning by-laws.

What is a drinking water threat activity?

The *Clean Water Act*, Reg. 287/07 indicates that a drinking water threat is one of 21 conditions or activities (such as storing home heating oil or operating a septic system) that could pose harm to a municipal drinking water source if not properly managed. The Tables of Circumstances related to these 21 threats is available at www.ontario.ca

Prescribed Drinking Water Threats

Here are the 21 activities which could threaten municipal drinking water sources in certain areas and circumstances:

1. The establishment, operation or maintenance of a waste disposal site
2. The establishment, operation or maintenance of a system that collects, stores, transmits, treats or disposes of sewage. (This includes septic systems)
3. The application of agricultural source material to land
4. The storage of agricultural source material
5. The management of agricultural source material
6. The application of non-agricultural source material to land
7. The handling and storage of non-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
14. The storage of snow
15. The handling and storage of fuel
16. The handling and storage of a dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL)
17. The handling and storage of an organic solvent
18. The management of runoff that contains chemicals used in the de-icing of aircraft
19. An activity that takes water from an aquifer or a surface water body without returning the water taken to the same aquifer or surface water body
20. An activity that reduces the recharge of an aquifer
21. The use of land as livestock grazing or pasturing land, an outdoor confinement area or a farm-animal yard

Complete Tables of Drinking Water Threats:
<http://www.ontario.ca/document/tables-drinking-water-threats>