

Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Region

Pre-Consultation Notice to Policy Implementers

Subject: Source Protection Plan Pre-Consultation, Section 34 Updates
Deadline for Comments: February 4, 2025
Send comments to email: welkerj@thamesriver.on.ca

You are being provided this notice and information because your ministry or municipality may be affected by the proposed updates of water quality Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs) and/or Intake Protection Zones (IPZs) and/or are responsible for the implementation of source protection plan (plan) policies.

On December 3, 2021 the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks released an update to the 2021 Director Technical Rules under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. As a result the Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Authority conducted a comprehensive review of the current policies in the Source Protection Plan Volume III. This review led to several proposed policies changes along with proposed new ones to align with the updated rules. These could affect your ministry or municipality.

These proposed updates are being provided as part of the pre-consultation process required by Regulation 287/07 of the Act, where the Source Protection Authority and Committee must consult with bodies responsible for the implementation of Source Protection Plan policies, before a public consultation period. The regulation requires pre-consultation when there are changes in the vulnerable area where policies apply, even if the policy text remains unchanged from the original plan approved by the Minister.

Ontario's Clean Water Act, 2006 provides for a community initiative where Municipalities, residents, business owners, provincial agencies, conservation authorities and others work together to protect existing and future municipal drinking water sources. Under the Act, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority together form the Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Region that supports the multi-stakeholder Committee.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
100 Thames Street, Chatham, Ontario,
N7L 2Y8

phone 519-354-7310, fax 519-352-3435

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
205 Mill Pond Cres., Strathroy, Ontario,
N7G 3P9

phone 519-245-3710, fax. 519-245-3348

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
1424 Clarke Road, London, ON
N5V 5B9

phone 519-451-2800, fax 519-451-1188

See further below for a summary of the proposed updates. Comments received as part of the pre-consultation process will be reviewed by the Source Protection Region staff and the Committee, and possible changes made to the assessment reports and source protection plan policies prior to public consultation.

Tracked-changes versions of the proposed updated Source Protection Plan, Explanatory Document, Assessment Reports, maps and Change Log are available at: <https://www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca/consultation/> These documents are for pre-consultation only and not for public sharing.

The key proposed updates include:

- Comply with mandatory amendments made to the Technical Rules 2021 and Tables of Drinking Water Threats
- Proposed new and amended policies that could affect municipalities as implementers of the policies

For further information on the Clean Water Act, 2006 please visit: www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/06c22

For further information on the Thames-Sydenham Drinking Water Source Protection Region, please visit: www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca

Source Protection Region staff are available for virtual meetings during the pre-consultation process if necessary. Should questions arise, please contact Julie Welker, Source Protection Coordinator by email at welkerj@thamesriver.on.ca.

Municipal Endorsement and Public Consultation

As required by s.34 (3) of the Clean Water Act, 2006, the Thames River SPA must obtain municipal council resolutions endorsing the plan amendments, from affected municipalities, prior to formal public consultation.

The Thames River SPA are requesting resolutions from the councils of **LAWSS, Chatham-Kent, Thames Centre, St. Marys, Stratford, West Perth and Perth East..** These municipalities are requested to each provide resolutions to support amendments made to the plan.

All resolutions can be sent to Julie Welker at the address.

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Public consultation on the draft updated plan will follow this pre-consultation period and council resolutions. Public consultation is scheduled to start late winter.

Following the public consultation period, any received public comments will be considered by Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Committee at their March, 2025 meeting Thames River SPA staff, respectively. The draft updated plans will be revised as necessary. The respective revised draft updated plans will then be released for submission to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for their review and approval.

Sincerely,



Julie Welker
Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Coordinator