



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Source Protection 101

This document presents answers to commonly asked questions regarding Part IV policies under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. For additional resources, please refer to the cleanwatercataraqui.ca website.

What is source water?

Source water is the untreated water in lakes and rivers, and in underground aquifers, that people use for drinking water.

What is source water protection?

Established under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, source water protection means protecting our sources of drinking water from contamination or overuse. Source water protection is the first step to a multi-barrier approach to protecting municipal drinking water. Source water protection emerged as a result of the public inquiry following the contamination of the Walkerton drinking water supply in 2000.

Why is source water protection important?

Source water protection contributes to the health of humans and ecosystems, as well as benefiting tourism and recreation. Protecting the sources of our drinking water ensures that there is enough safe water for all our existing and future uses.

It is much easier to keep water clean than it is to try and clean it up afterwards. Sometimes it is impossible to remove the pollution either by site remediation or through treatment, and a different source of water needs to be used.

What is the Clean Water Act, 2006?

The *Clean Water Act, 2006* is in place to protect existing and future sources of drinking water. The *Clean Water Act* is a commitment from the Ontario government to ensure the sustainability of clean, safe drinking water for everyone in Ontario, and to implement the recommendations made following the Walkerton Inquiry.

What is the Cataraqui Source Protection Area?

The Cataraqui Source Protection Area (CSPA) is the area of land and water where the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan applies. The CSPA includes portions of three counties and all or part of twelve municipalities. The boundary of the CSPA is the same as that of the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, with the addition of the Township of Frontenac and the Islands.

What is the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan?

The Cataraqui Source Protection Plan is a document developed by the Cataraqui Source Protection Committee which contains policies to protect the source of drinking water for each of the 12 municipal water systems in the

Cataraqui Source Protection Area. Policies in the source protection plan also bring awareness to, and protect, the regional areas of sensitive groundwater.

What is the Cataraqui Source Protection Committee?

The Cataraqui Source Protection Committee worked together to guide technical work to identify vulnerable areas and drinking water threats in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area, and to develop the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan. The committee consists of 16 members, including a Chair. Members of the committee include representatives of municipal, economic, and other public interest sectors such as environmental organizations or cottagers/shoreline residents.

What is a drinking water threat?

A drinking water threat is an activity that has the potential to harm the quality or quantity of water that is used as a source of drinking water. A drinking water threat can be an existing activity, or an activity that could exist in the future. Under the *Clean Water Act*, the Province of Ontario has identified 21 general drinking water threats that could impact source water quality and quantity.

The Assessment Report identified the types and number of existing drinking water threats in the areas surrounding municipal drinking water sources in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area, including two additional local drinking water threats.

A **significant** drinking water threat is a drinking water threat that poses or has the potential to pose a significant risk.

A **moderate** drinking water threat is a drinking water threat that poses or has the potential to pose a moderate risk.

A **low** drinking water threat is a drinking water threat that poses or has the potential to pose a low risk.

What is the Assessment Report?

The Assessment Report is a technical, science-based document that identified areas in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area where drinking water sources were vulnerable to contamination or over-use.

Where does the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan apply?

The Cataraqui Source Protection Plan applies to the vulnerable areas within the Cataraqui Source Protection Area. The Plan focuses on drinking water systems that are owned by municipalities and provide drinking water for residential use.

The twelve drinking water systems where the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan applies are:

- Sandhurst Shores – Town of Greater Napanee
- A.L. Dafoe – Town of Greater Napanee
- Bath – Loyalist Township
- Fairfield (Amherstview) – Loyalist Township
- Point Pleasant (Kingston West) – City of Kingston
- Kingston Central – City of Kingston
- Sydenham – Township of South Frontenac
- Cana (Kingston Mills) – City of Kingston
- James W. King – Town of Gananoque
- Lansdowne – Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands
- Miller Manor (Mallorytown) – Township of Front of Yonge
- Brockville – City of Brockville

What are the vulnerable areas in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area?

About 80 percent of the Cataraqui Source Protection Area residents live in an area that is served by a municipal water system which draws from either surface or groundwater. Protection zones are mapped around these drinking water sources. For surface water they are called, “intake protection zones” and for groundwater they are called, “wellhead protection areas”. The balance of the population relies on drinking water from private intakes or wells in regionally sensitive groundwater areas.

Intake Protection Zones: An intake protection zone (IPZ) is an area of land and water around a municipal intake pipe that supplies water to a treatment plant.

Wellhead Protection Areas: A wellhead is the actual part of the well that sits above the ground. A wellhead protection area (WHPA) is an area of land around a municipal well that supplies water to a treatment plant.

Regionally sensitive groundwater areas: Regionally sensitive groundwater areas are known as highly vulnerable aquifers (HVAs) and significant groundwater recharge areas (SGRAs). HVAs and SGRAs account for more than 90 percent of the entire Cataraqui Source Protection Area. The entire area is characterized by thin soils and fractured bedrock, so that any water and pollutants on the ground surface can easily soak in and potentially affect drinking water sources.

How is the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan implemented?

The Cataraqui Source Protection Plan includes policies to regulate drinking water threats across the Source Protection Area. Source protection plans have legal effect on municipalities, the province, source protection authorities, and local bodies (i.e. health units). Other bodies are named in the source protection plan, but they are not legally bound to act.

The Cataraqui Source Protection Plan includes a variety of implementation tools to address drinking water threats, including education and outreach, research initiatives, and land use planning. Significant drinking water threats are addressed in the source protection plan via Part IV of the *Clean Water Act* (i.e. prohibition, risk management plans, and restricted land uses).

When was the Cataraqui source Protection Plan approved?

The Cataraqui Source Protection Plan was approved by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change on November 26, 2014.

When does the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan come into effect?

The Cataraqui Source Protection Plan comes into effect on April 1, 2015. Land use planning and Part IV policies are immediately effective on April 1, 2015, but other policies in the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan have longer implementation deadlines:

- Operational policies are to be implemented up to 2 years following the effective date;
- Document updates (i.e. official plans and zoning bylaws, spill contingency plans) are required or recommended to be complete from 2 to 5 years following the effective date; and
- Research initiatives are to be implemented between 5 and 10 years.

Where can I find out more about source protection and the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan?

There are many resources available to you for more information about source protection in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area, including the [Cataraqui Source Protection Plan](#), the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan Primer, and Quick Facts for Municipalities, as well as the Interactive Maps. All of these resources are available on the [cleanwatercataraqui](#) website.

The [Cataraqui Source Protection Plan Primer](#) provides a brief introduction to source protection in general and the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan.

[Quick Facts for Municipalities](#) outlines the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan and what it will mean for municipalities in regards to implementation responsibilities.

The [Interactive Maps](#) identify the policies from the Cataraqui Source Protection that are applicable to each intake protection zone or wellhead protection area. Using tailored fact sheets for the type of user, the interactive maps are designed to meet the needs of both residents and municipalities.

Who can I contact if I have more questions about the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan?

If you have questions about source protection and the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan, please do not hesitate to contact source protection staff at the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority:

Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority

1641 Perth Road, Glenburnie, Ontario

613-546-4228 or Toll Free 877-956-2722

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