

May 2, 2021

Regional Municipality of York
Attention: Chris Raynor, Regional Clerk
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
Email: regionalclerk@york.ca

Dear Regional Clerk:

The Credit Valley – Toronto and Region – Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Source Protection Plan (the Plan) came into effect December 31, 2015, providing a framework of policies to protect the quality and quantity of the source waters for municipal drinking water systems located in the CTC Source Protection Region.

On April 30, 2021, the Source Protection Region submitted its fourth annual report on progress towards implementation of the Plan to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, as required by the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. Substantive implementation of the Plan has occurred. Most legally binding policies (96%) that address significant drinking water threats are implemented and about 94% of existing significant threats have been addressed through policy implementation or removed through field verification.

Risk Management Plan Progress

At the end of 2020, 362 significant drinking water threats remain to be addressed of the 10,583 significant threats originally enumerated in 2015. Most of the outstanding significant threats will be addressed through risk management plans negotiated with property owners and businesses by municipal Risk Management Officials. At the end of 2020, 118 risk management plans are in place; however, an estimated 205 risk management plans to address the outstanding threats remain to be negotiated.

It was determined in May 2020 that the Plan's legislated deadline for completion of all risk management plans for existing significant drinking water threats by December 31, 2020 would not be met. As a result, the CTC Source Protection Committee (the Committee) chose to report implementation status of the Plan as "progressing well, but short of target" for 2019 and 2020 and that an extension would need to be requested.

Source Protection Committee Recommendation

At meeting #2/20, on May 13th, 2020, the Committee passed resolution #13/20 after receiving a report recommending CTC staff request an extension to the deadline for completing risk management plans in the CTC region:

THAT the CTC Source Protection Committee authorizes a 3-year extension to the December 31, 2020 deadline for municipalities to complete risk management plans (RMPs) that address existing significant drinking water threats, contingent on their submission of a workplan outlining activities between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2023;

AND THAT a letter be sent from the Source Protection Committee to each of the municipal Councils advising them of the 3-year extension that is being granted, asking for their support in obtaining the resources necessary to meet the requirements of the workplan, and to remind their Risk Management Officers when necessary, to make use of their powers under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*;

AND THAT all municipalities submit their workplan to the CTC Source Protection Committee for their information, and if necessary, discussion, at Meeting #1/21 (anticipated in January 2021);

AND THAT all municipalities respond on the status of workplan progression by February 1st of each calendar year through 2024;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to take the necessary action to request a formal 3-year extension to December 31, 2023 for the completion of RMPs to address the remaining existing significant drinking water threats.

Following the CTC Region's request, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks approved a 3-year extension to the deadline to complete risk management plans and requested that the source protection authority submit a summary of the work required to achieve the extended deadline. Municipal work plans to achieve the new December 31, 2023 deadline were received by the Committee at meeting #1/21 in January 2021. A summary of the work plans was submitted to the Ministry by May 1, 2021.

Support for Implementation

On an annual basis, there is great variation across municipalities in the number of risk management plans that are developed. Key factors include staff resources, the complexity and number of threats being addressed by risk plans, and the willingness of the parties carrying out the activity(ies) to negotiate the parameters of the risk plans.

Implementation challenges identified by municipal staff include the time consuming nature of the threat verification and negotiation process, the priority placed on risk plans initiated through the land use planning and building permit process, additional complications in negotiating agricultural risk plans (seasonal availability, multiple threats, regulatory burden), and COVID-19 pandemic impacts.

This letter is to advise Council of the 3-year extension and to request Council's support in securing the resources required for municipal staff to meet the new deadline. Below is a list of outstanding significant drinking water threats and risk management plans for the CTC Region.

- Town of Mono – 3 threats and 3 RMPs,
- Halton Region – 209 threats and 150 RMPs,
- Town of Orangeville – 95 threats and 38 RMPs,
- Town of Erin – 30 threats and 12 RMPs, and
- York Region – 2 threats and 2 RMPs.

Councils are also being asked to remind and support their Risk Management staff to use the full extent of their powers under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, when necessary, to meet the new deadline. Staff will report annually to the Committee on their progress towards completing risk management plans.

Thank you for your support on this matter. As the foundation of our communities' health and economy, our drinking water sources deserve our care and attention. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet Ivey', written in a cursive style.

Janet Ivey
Program Manager, CTC Source Protection Region
Chief Specialist, Watershed Plans and Source Water Protection

Copy to:
Doug Wright, Chair, CTC Source Protection Committee
Scott Lister, Risk Management Official, York Region