

News Release

PUBLIC COMMENT ON SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEES

MANOTICK, January 17, 2007 — The Ministry of Environment (MOE) has recently posted a “discussion paper” on the formation and operation of the Clean Water Act's Source Protection Committees for public comment. This is the opportunity for people interested in the Clean Water Act to advise the Province of Ontario about how Source Protection Committees should be formed and operated. The comments MOE receives on this discussion paper will be used to draft a Source Protection Committee “regulation” which will also be posted for public comment later this winter/spring. The discussion paper is on the web at: http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env_reg/er/documents/2007/Discussion%20Paper.pdf <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env_reg/er/documents/2007/Discussion%20Paper.pdf> . If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Sommer Casgrain-Robertson to obtain a copy.

Comments must be submitted in writing (reference EBR registry number PA06E0013) on or before February 1, 2007. Submit comments to:

James Scott, Senior Policy Analyst
Strategic Policy Branch
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 11th floor
Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1P5

PHONE: (416) 314-4130
FAX: (416) 314-2976

Under the Clean Water Act, a Source Protection Committee will be formed in each region to oversee the process, and in particular, create locally-developed source protection plans. Source Protection Committees would be made up of local stakeholders such as municipalities, agriculture, landowners, industry, business, community groups and the general public. The regulation about Source Protection Committees will outline how these committees are formed (including how members are chosen and what stakeholder sectors are represented) and how they will operate (including roles & responsibilities and decision making procedures).

Following the Walkerton tragedy in 2000, legislation to protect source water was developed with input from many sectors. The result was the Clean Water Act (formerly bill 43) which was introduced in December 2005 and received Royal Assent on October 19, 2006. The Clean Water Act is focussed on preventing the contamination and depletion of surface and groundwater sources that supply municipal drinking water systems with water. This Act will see municipalities, Conservation Authorities and all interested community stakeholders, collaborate to produce locally-developed, workable, effective, science-based plans to address risks to municipal drinking water.

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More information: Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, Communications Specialist
Proposed Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region
Tel.: (613) 692-3571 ext 1147
sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca