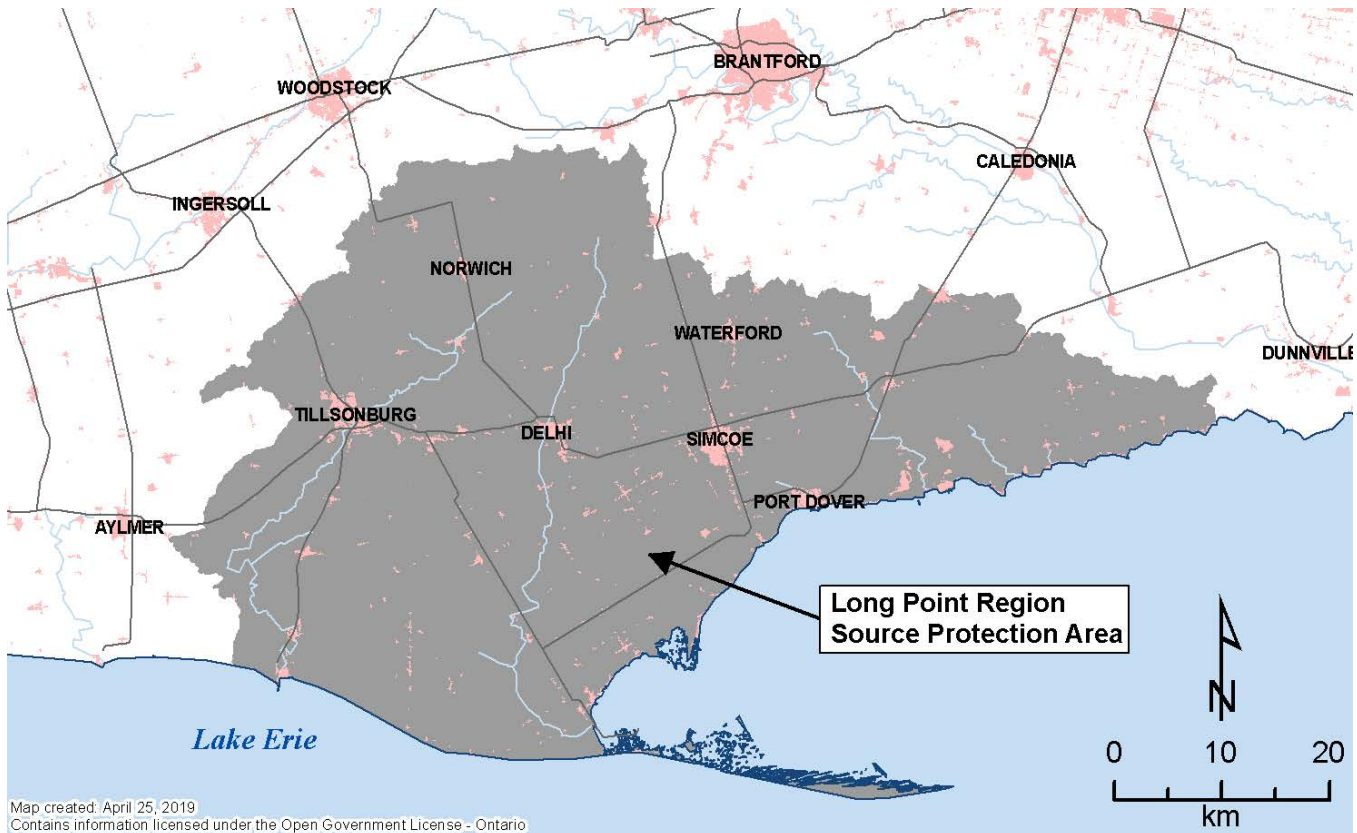


Source Protection Annual Progress Report

I. Introduction

This annual progress report outlines the progress made in implementing the source protection plan for the Long Point Region Source Protection Area, as required by the Clean Water Act and regulations.

We acknowledge and recognize the tremendous efforts made by our local municipality, stakeholders and Source Protection Committee in the development of the Source Protection Plan and implementation of Source Protection policies.



II. A message from your local Source Protection Committee

- P : Progressing Well/On Target – The majority of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.**
- S : Satisfactory – Some of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.
- L : Limited progress – A few of source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.

687 significant drinking water threats have been identified in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area since the original source protection plan approval or approval of amendments that include new or revised protection zones. The percentage of overall progress made in addressing threats is 61%. Increased progress is primarily due to the approval of the Long Point Region Source Plan update on March 11, 2019. Ninety-seven percent of legally-binding plan policies that address significant drinking water threats are implemented, in progress or implemented because policy outcome(s) have been evaluated and no further action(s) are required. No progress was made on 3% of the plan policies.

III. Our Watershed

To learn more, please read our assessment report(s) and source protection plan(s)

The Long Point Region Source Protection Area (watershed) is drained by 14 major watercourses that empty into Lake Erie. They drain 2,780 square kilometres in portions of Elgin, Norfolk, Oxford, Brant and Haldimand Counties.

The watershed has ten municipal drinking water systems. Three systems are located in Oxford County in the communities of Dereham Centre, Oxford South (communities of Norwich, Otterville and Springford) and the Town of Tillsonburg, all of which are groundwater systems. Norfolk County has five municipal-residential drinking water systems in the communities of Delhi, Port Dover, Port Rowan, Simcoe and Waterford. Haldimand and Elgin County each have one municipal-residential drinking water system, respectively.

IV. At a Glance: Progress on Source Protection Plan Implementation

1. Source Protection Plan Policies

P: Progressing Well/On Target

The majority of the legally-binding policies (97%) that address significant drinking water threats are implemented in progress or implemented because policy outcome(s) have been evaluated and no further action(s) are required. No progress was made on 3% of the plan policies.

2. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

Eight upper/lower and single-tier municipalities (County of Oxford, Town of Tillsonburg, Township of Norwich, Township of South-West Oxford, Norfolk County, Haldimand County, Township of Malahide and Municipality Bayham) in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area have vulnerable areas where significant drinking water threat policies apply.

P: Progressing Well/On Target - Five municipalities in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area are required to review and update their Official Plan to ensure it conforms with the Long Point Region Source Protection Plan the next time they undertake an Official Plan review under the Planning Act. Three Official Plan amendments have been completed and two are in process.

3. Septic Inspections

L: Limited Progress

Seven percent of on-site sewage systems have been inspected in accordance with the Ontario Building Code during the five-year inspection period (2017-2021) within the Long Point Source Protection Area. Thirty-six percent of the systems inspected required minor maintenance work, e.g., pump out, etc., and 9% required major maintenance work, e.g., tank replacement, etc.

4. Risk Management Plans

S: Satisfactory

No risk management plans have been established since the Long Point Region Source Protection Plan took effect.

Sixteen inspections have been carried out or planned by a Risk Management Official/Inspector for prohibited or regulated activities in the previous calendar year.

5. Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P: Progressing Well/On Target

Ontario ministries are reviewing previously issued provincial approvals (i.e., prescribed instruments, such as environmental compliance approvals under the Environmental Protection Act) where they have been identified as a tool in the Long Point Region Source Protection Plan to address existing activities that pose a significant risk to sources of drinking water. The provincial approvals are being amended or revoked where necessary to conform with plan policies. The Long Point Region Source Protection policies set out a timeline of 3 years to complete the review and make any necessary changes. The ministries have completed this for 100% of previously issued provincial approvals in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area.

6. Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

Twelve Drinking Water Protection Zones signs have been installed in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area since the Source Protection Plan to effect.

The Oxford County Risk Management Official has noted a change in property owner behaviour during site inspections. People appear interested in protecting source water and are willing to swap out chemicals for more environmentally-sensitive options.

Although no trending analysis has been completed, nitrate concentrations in overburden well TW3-12, Village of Richmond Drinking Water System (Municipality of Bayham), appear to have stabilized at a lower concentration than in 2017.

Positive changes in behaviours have been noted in Norfolk County through interactions with landowners in response to threats verification and general information mail-outs. In general, landowners are open to participating in the process when they understand the reasons for Source Protection Plan policies.

7. Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delays

Delays in implementing source protection plan policies have been noted in Norfolk County and Haldimand County.

Summary of rationale for delays:

- policy implementation has been staggered over time, i.e., some policies have been implemented while others are scheduled to be implemented in the near future e.g., water quantity education and outreach program
- policy implementation is delayed because a policy is tied to and dependent on the progress of another municipal planning document(s), e.g., a policy to update a master plan first requires the update of an Official Plan and / or Zoning Bylaw
- municipality has not yet discussed or created a plan to implement a policy

Actions planned to implement policies:

- preparation to implement policies in the coming year(s), e.g., initiate water quantity education and outreach program in 2020
- complete an update to an Official Plan and /or Zoning Bylaw to allow the process to update another municipal planning document, e.g., master plan, to begin
- initiate municipal discussions in 2020 to develop a plan of action to implement a policy

8. Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

The Richmond (Municipality of Bayham) and Simcoe (Cedar St. Well and Chapel St. Well, Norfolk County) and Tillsonburg (Oxford County) drinking water systems have identified nitrate drinking water Issues.

Oxford County is monitoring nitrate levels with a continuous nitrate analyzer at the Tillsonburg wells identified with nitrate as an Issue. Risk Management Official and Risk Management Inspector staff have begun the exercise of contacting property owners within the Issue Contributing Area boundary to confirm threat activities and negotiate Risk Management Plans or make sure that the Prescribed Instruments (e.g. Nutrient Management Strategies) are up to date to reflect the location of the site within a Nitrate Issue Contributing Area and to confirm that they conform with the Source Protection Plan policies.

The Municipality of Bayham is monitoring nitrate concentrations in the raw water quality in the two overburden wells on a monthly basis and the raw water is being treated to remove nitrate from the water supply before the water is delivered to the end user. In addition, to address nitrate as the Issue in the Issues Contributing Area, Risk Management Plans and prohibition policies regarding the handling and storage of commercial fertilizers in the Issue Contributing Area were approved in March 2019 and work to implement these approved policies is currently underway.

Norfolk County conducts quarterly treated water sampling to test for the issue parameter (nitrate) to ensure the safe delivery of drinking water in relation to the Simcoe Issue Contributing Areas. The trends are analyzed and monitored in accordance with the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards.

9. Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans

An order was received from the Ministry on December 17, 2019 regarding the Section 36 workplan for updates to the Long Point Region Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan.

Examples of tasks that are included in the Section 36 workplan:

- growth and infrastructure changes, e.g., new drinking water supply well(s) to be brought online
- technical rule changes, e.g., review and consider Phase II Technical Rule changes for incorporation into the assessment report and source protection plan
- transport pathway changes, e.g., consider any identified transport pathways for incorporation into the assessment report and source protection plan

10. More from the Watershed

To learn more about the Long Point Region Source Protection Area, visit <http://www.sourcewater.ca>