

Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee Final Composition and Rationale

The Grand River Source Protection Authority (Grand River SPA), as the lead authority in the Lake Erie Source Protection Region, is required to establish the composition and appoint the members of the Source Protection Committee, according to the rules outlined in Ontario Regulation 288/07 under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. A public comment period on the proposed composition was held between August 3, 2007 and September 3, 2007. Below is a summary of the final composition for the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee, as approved by the Grand River Source Protection Authority on September 18, 2007.

O. Reg. 288/07 states that the Lake Erie Source Protection Region must have a Source Protection Committee of 22 members comprised of:

- 1 non-voting Chair;
- 7 municipal representatives;
- 7 sector representatives (including business, industry and agriculture); and
- 7 others representing interests other than municipal and sector interests (the public interest).

In addition to the Chair and 21 municipal, economic sector and other members referred to above, three seats must be offered to, and held for the two First Nations communities in the Lake Erie Region, the Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. There are also three non-voting liaison seats for representatives of the Source Protection Region, the Province of Ontario, and Public Health.

The final composition of the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee is summarized in the table below:

Members	Number of Seats	Selected by:
Municipal	7	Municipalities within each group
Sector		
Agriculture	3	Grand River SPA ¹
Industry, business	3	Grand River SPA ²
Aggregate industry	1	Grand River SPA ³
Other		
Representatives of the public interest	6	Grand River SPA
Elgin Are Primary Water Supply System Joint Board of Management	1	Elgin Are Primary Water Supply System Joint Board of Management
Total	22	

¹ In conjunction with agricultural community led by Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition (OFEC).

² In conjunction with a business community selection committee made up of representatives of local Chambers of Commerce and Business Associations.

³ In conjunction with the Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association.

Rationale

O. Reg. 288/07 requires that one-third of the members on the Source Protection Committee represent municipalities, one-third represent the economic sectors, and one-third represent interests of the general public.

Municipal Representatives:

The Source Protection Authority consulted with municipalities in the Lake Erie Source Protection Region on the distribution of the 7 municipal representatives on the Source Protection Committee. On August 31, 2007, the Grand River Source Protection Authority approved the groupings for municipal representatives, and notified the member municipalities in the Lake Erie Region to select representatives. Municipalities have until November 4, 2007 to name their representatives.

Sector Representatives:

The Source Protection Authority has the responsibility to determine how sector seats are divided among all sector stakeholders (industry, business, agriculture, aggregate, etc). Of the seven seats for sectors, three have been allocated to industry and business; three to the agricultural community, and one to the aggregate industry.

The majority of municipal supplies in the Lake Erie Region are located in urban areas. As such, the Clean Water Act may significantly impact a large number of businesses and industries, particularly in the cities. Of the three business and industry seats, at least one member on the Committee will be representative of commercial interests, and one of small business, while also taking into account geographic distribution within the Lake Erie Region.

Additionally, it is recognized that agriculture is a dominant geographic and economic land use activity in all four watersheds, and plays a strong role in the protection of the quality and quantity of water sources. Geography and the diversity in agricultural operations will also be considered in the selection of representatives.

The Lake Erie Region is a key source of aggregate resources in Ontario, and the aggregate industry is very active in all four watersheds. As such, one seat on the Source Protection Committee has been allocated to the aggregate industry.

Other Representatives (of the Public Interest):

Six seats in the "Other" category will be appointed as representatives of the public interest, that is, as individuals rather than associations. Associations or groups may encourage one or more of their members to express interest in a seat on the Committee. Geography and, in particular, diversity of public interests in drinking water source protection will be considered in the selection of representatives of the public interest.

Additionally, one seat will be allocated to the Elgin Area Primary Water Supply System Joint Board of Management, as it operates a major supply of drinking water serving a significant portion of the south-western Lake Erie Region. Being neither a municipality nor an economic interest, the Joint Board of Management will be represented in the "Other" category.