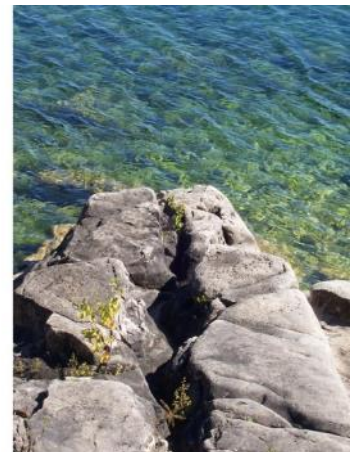


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Chapter 2

Assessment Reports



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2.0 Assessment Reports

2.1 Assessment Reports Overview

The *Clean Water Act* requires the completion of an Assessment Report for each Source Protection Area. Assessment Reports have been completed for the three Source Protection Areas in the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region.

The Assessment Reports are technical documents and contain the science on which the Source Protection Plan is based. Assessment Reports contain past and present water quality and quantity conditions, as well as projections for the future about those conditions. The reports describe research findings in detail and explain the water resources in the area.

In addition, Assessment Reports describe vulnerable areas and risks to drinking water. The Reports assess the vulnerability of those areas and identify water quality issues related to the water sources. Another function of the Assessment Reports is to identify the number of activities that are, or would be, significant drinking water threats. Assessment Reports include maps of the vulnerable areas.

The Assessment Reports are based on the completion of detailed technical studies. These technical studies underwent a peer review process that enabled scientists and other experts to evaluate the technical work for completeness and whether it met the provincial rules and guidelines. A phased consultation process provided opportunities for the public to review and comment on the Assessment Reports. The Assessment Reports are 'living documents' that will be updated and amended in future years as new information becomes available.

2.2 Timeline and Process for the Assessment Reports

The Assessment Reports look at technical and scientific studies to identify threats and risks to the source water of municipal residential drinking water systems that were identified in the Terms of Reference (approved August 2009).

The Proposed Assessment Reports were initially submitted to the Director of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change by each Source Protection Authority in September 2010. Prior to the approval of the Assessment Reports, a process was undertaken to develop the Draft Updated Assessment Reports for the three Source Protection Areas within the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region. The process commenced with the preparation of the Draft Updated Assessment Reports and was concluded on June 29, 2011 with the submission to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change of the Proposed Assessment Reports - Updated June 15, 2011, Amended June 15, 2011, along with supporting documentation.

The Director of the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change approved the Assessment Reports in the fall of 2011.

Subsequent to their approval, a notice of the approval was posted to the Environmental Registry website on January 25, 2012.

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Table 2.2.1 - Assessment Reports Timeline.

Draft Proposed Assessment Reports	SPC approved	April 30, 2010
	Consultation	May 6 - June 10, 2010
Proposed Assessment Reports	SPC approved	June 25, 2010
	Consultation	July 8 - August 9, 2010
	Submission	September 17, 2010
Proposed Assessment Reports (Updated and Amended)	SPC approved	April 29, 2011
	Consultation	May 5 - June 6, 2011
	Submission	June 29, 2011
Assessment Report - Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Area	Approved by Director	September 23, 2011
Assessment Report - Saugeen Valley Source Protection Area	Approved by Director	November 28, 2011
Assessment Report - Grey Sauble Source Protection Area	Approved by Director	November 28, 2011
Environmental Registry Notice regarding Assessment Reports	Posting on website	January 25, 2012
Revised Assessment Reports	SPC approved	April 24, 2015
	Consultation	Feb. 3 – March 6, 2015
	Submission	June 30, 2015
Revisions to Assessment Report - Saugeen Valley Source Protection Area	Approved by Director	October 15, 2015
Revisions to Assessment Report - Grey Sauble Source Protection Area	Approved by Director	October 15, 2015
Revisions to Assessment Report - Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Area	Approved by Director	October 15, 2015

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2.3 Summary of the Assessment Reports

Each of the full Assessment Reports have seven chapters that serve a specific purpose in the overall Reports.

1. Introduction

2. Watershed Characterization

- describes the watersheds in the area through various topics: physical description including soils, bedrock types and land surface; surface water; wetlands; woodlands; aquatic ecology; population; land use; transportation; agriculture; protected areas; recreation; water quality

3. Water Budgets

- includes groundwater and surface water quantity and flow data
- evaluates areas in the watershed where possible stresses occur and whether there may be water quantity issues

4. Water Quality

- first section provides background and describes methods used in the technical work
- second section is the risk assessment, arranged by municipality and drinking water system
- general information on each municipality, including population, land use, Highly Vulnerable Aquifers (HVA) and Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas (SGRA)
- delineation of vulnerable areas for each drinking water system
- detailed information on each drinking water system, including data about the system and an evaluation of potential drinking water threats and risks

5. Climate Change

- looks at possible impacts of climate change on water sources in our region

6. Great Lakes Considerations

- discusses the governance of the Great Lakes and the effect that various legislation and inter-governmental agreements have on the Source Protection Plan development process

7. Addressing Limitations

- explains where more information or future research may be needed

2.4 Where to View the Assessment Reports

As required by the *Clean Water Act*, the Assessment Reports must be published on the internet. The Source Protection Committee has made the full text and maps from the Reports available at: www.waterprotection.ca

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2.5 Items for Further Study

Certain technical work was not completed during this round of Assessment Report work. Chapter 7 of the Assessment Report identifies these ongoing technical tasks.

A thorough inventory has not been completed in this region for locations with conditions that result from past activities. The types of activities that are considered conditions are defined in Technical Rule 126.