



## SUMMARY OF KEY UPDATES TO THE SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN

- The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks has directed updates to Source Protection Plans including updates to the 2021 Director's Technical Rules and Drinking Water Quality Threats. Draft policy updates are included for policy text related to salt, snow, fuel, agriculture, waste, and wastewater storage.
- These updates were prepared to increase clarity, incorporate consistent terminology and references, and update policies related to new thresholds for potential drinking water threats related to the storage of fuel, salt, and snow.
- Draft policy changes are included as tracked changes in the Source Protection Plan and Assessment Reports available at [www.yourdrinkingwater.ca/consultations](http://www.yourdrinkingwater.ca/consultations).
- A summary of the policy changes related to the storage of fuel, liquid hydrocarbon pipelines, agriculture, sewage, salt, and snow is also provided below:

### **Fuel Policies (FUEL-1 and FUEL-2)**

---

- Previously, the handling and storage of fuel was considered a significant drinking water threat when storing over 2,500 L in vulnerable drinking water areas or when storing 250 L below ground (including basements) in Wellhead Protection Areas only.
- Under the new Technical Rules, the storage volume threshold was reduced from 2,500 L to 250 L for above or below grade fuel storage. Existing fuel policies will now be applied for fuel storage over 250 L in all vulnerable drinking water areas (including Intake Protection Zones) and may require a Risk Management Plan.

### **Snow Policies (SNOW-1, SNOW-2, SNOW-3, SNOW-4)**

---

- Previously, significant drinking water threats related to snow and salt were included in the same section of the Source Protection Plan.
- Under the new Technical Rules, much smaller snow storage areas must now be considered as a potential threat to municipal drinking water sources. As a result, snow storage policies have shifted from very large-scale storage facilities to small areas of snow storage, including snow storage piles of any size in some areas.
- A new policy section has now been created to deal with potential snow storage threats.
- Education and outreach are now required for commercial and industrial snow storage, existing and future snow storage may be prohibited at snow dumps, and Snow Disposal Facilities under the *Ontario Water Resources Act* must ensure that they do not cause significant drinking water threats through stormwater drainage systems.



### **Salt Policies (SALT-2, SALT-3, SALT-5)**

---

- Previously, there were no significant drinking water threats related to salt application identified in the region.
- Under the new Technical Rules, the storage and application of salt must now be considered as a potential threat to municipal drinking water sources. As a result, salt storage policies have shifted from municipal-storage facilities to almost all forms of salt storage based on the level of exposure to precipitation.
- Prohibition of large, exposed salt storage is now specified, a combination of Risk Management Plans and prohibition is specified for partially exposed salt storage over 500 kg, and education and outreach will be completed to address partially exposed salt storage of 500 kg or less.

### **Liquid Hydrocarbon Pipeline Policies (PIPE-1, PIPE-2)**

---

- Previously, there were no significant drinking water threats related to existing liquid hydrocarbon pipelines identified in the region.
- Following amendments to Ontario Regulation 287/07, a new policy section was developed in response to the identification of the establishment and operation of a liquid hydrocarbon pipeline as a potential significant drinking water threat.
- The new policies will reduce or eliminate the threat to source water by preventing spills due to pipeline ruptures and by having an emergency response plan in place.

### **Agriculture Policies (AG-1, AG-2)**

---

- Two previous policies for agricultural activities have been combined. As was the case before, farmers will need a Risk Management Plan for certain activities in vulnerable areas. They will now be able to ask for an exemption from the requirement if they have a Nutrient Management Strategy that covers the same activities.

### **Sewage – Stormwater Management Policies (SEWG-1, SEWG-2, SEWG-3, SEWG-4, SEWG-7)**

---

- New provincial technical rules now include additional types of infrastructure under the definition of stormwater management, which was previously limited to stormwater ponds. Since many existing storm sewers are now considered a significant threat, the prohibition on stormwater management in vulnerable areas has been removed.
- The policies were also updated to reflect a new provincial approval process for new development, which gives more authority to local municipalities.