



Your sources of clean drinking water are safe today. Your actions will determine whether our sources of drinking water remain safe tomorrow and into the future. If you are concerned about protecting this resource from source to tap, the following primer is something that you will want to read.

**Primer For Developing And Implementing A Plan
For Protecting Your Sources Of Drinking Water For the Niagara Watershed**

**Prepared by the
Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Committee**

Introduction

Few natural resources are more vital to our survival as individuals and to the health and welfare of the communities we live in than water.

Here in Niagara, we are blessed to live in a region bordered by Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, and intersected by watersheds that collectively hold more freshwater than people in many other regions of the world could ever dream of. Most of us can turn on the taps in the places where we live, work and play to an abundance of clean, safe water.

Yet we dare not take this precious resource for granted.

Both the quality and quantity of water flowing from our taps depend on the health of our surrounding ecosystems, including the forests, shoreline vegetation, wetlands, rivers, lakes, underground aquifers and other natural features serving as pathways for raw water supplying municipal drinking water systems downstream.

Each and every one of us, as individual residents, as representatives of our municipalities, and as members of our agricultural, industrial and business communities, has a responsibility to present and future generations to ensure that the sources of water flowing to our taps are protected from contamination and overuse.

To that end, the **Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Committee** (SPC), made up of local residents including municipal, agricultural, industrial and business representatives, has been established by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. The committee will develop a comprehensive Source Protection Plan for safeguarding the quality and quantity of water flowing to municipal taps.

The success of this initiative, being carried out under the province's recently passed **Clean Water Act** (CWA), depends on watershed residents to provide input as a Source Protection Plan is being developed for a **Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area**. This area of jurisdiction is located

between Lakes Ontario and Erie, covering the entire Region of Niagara, 20 per cent of the City of Hamilton and 25 per cent of Haldimand County. It will also ultimately depend on the active participation of as many residents as possible to do what they can in their daily lives to protect and preserve the quality and quantity of our drinking water sources.

There are few greater legacies we can leave ourselves and future generations than a plentiful supply of clean, safe water. To that end, the SPC encourages you to attend public meetings or submit your comments in writing during each stage in the development of a source protection plan for the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area. To obtain more information visit the website at <http://www.sourceprotection-niagara.ca>.

Background

In May 2000, citizens across our province read and heard the disturbing news that seven people died and more than 2,300 others became ill after deadly bacteria contaminated the drinking water system for the small southern Ontario town of Walkerton.

The news was a stark reminder of how important safe, clean supplies of drinking water are to the welfare of all of our communities and, in the wake of this tragedy, the government of Ontario called a special inquiry, presided over by Justice Dennis R. O'Connor. That inquiry led to a tabling of numerous recommendations for better protecting municipal drinking water supplies and for reducing any possibility that such an event would occur again in the province.

In his final report on the Walkerton inquiry Justice O'Connor focused on five major safeguards as part of a "multi-barrier approach" to protecting municipal drinking water. They include:

- Placing greater emphasis on protecting lakes, rivers and other sources of municipal water supplies from contamination or overuse.
- Ensuring that all municipal treatment systems are adequate for removing as many contaminants as possible from drinking water before it reaches the resident's tap.
- Ensuring that watermains, pipes and other systems for distributing municipal drinking water to residents are as secure as possible to prevent the infiltration of contaminants.
- Placing proper monitoring and warning systems in place in the event of contamination or other possible threats to a drinking water supply.
- Preparing strategies for addressing threats to a municipal water supply.

Justice O'Connor also concluded that protecting upstream surface and ground water sources from contamination and overuse is the first line of defense in ensuring that residents across the province continue to enjoy an abundant supply of clean, safe water.

With Justice O'Connor's report in mind, the Ontario government launched a program in 2004 to address his recommendations on the need for better protecting water sources from contamination or overuse. In the fall of 2006, the provincial legislature followed up this program with the passage of the Clean Water Act (CWA) that places "source water protection," or the protection of present and future sources of municipal drinking water, front and centre when it comes to safeguarding public health and the quality and quantity of our drinking water.

The CWA requires all Conservation Authorities across Ontario to establish source protection committees. The work of the committee includes mapping vulnerable areas around municipal drinking water sources, identifying and assess risks to municipal drinking water, and ultimately

developing and implement plans for safeguarding rivers, creeks and other sources of surface and ground water for municipal drinking water supplies within their geographic jurisdictions.

In Niagara, the process led to the establishment of the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Committee, made up of local residents including representatives from municipalities, agricultural, industrial and business. The Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area is located between Lakes Ontario and Erie, covers the entire Region of Niagara, 20 percent of the City of Hamilton and 25 per cent of Haldimand County. It is one of 11 “source protection regions” and eight stand-alone “source protection areas” in Ontario. The multi-stakeholder committee, in consultation with the public, will prepare and implement locally developed Source Protection Plans for ensuring an adequate quantity of safe, clean drinking water. (Source Protection Area Map is Appended)

The Source Protection Process

The process required under the CWA for developing and implementing source protection plans for municipal drinking water supplies will unfold in the following four stages:

- Establishing a multi-stakeholder Source Protection Committee for every source protection region or area in the province and developing Terms of Reference that will lay out who will be responsible for what parts of the Source Protection Plan and how the work will be conducted.
- Preparing an Assessment Report, in cooperation with local municipalities, Conservation Authorities and other stakeholders, identifying and assessing threats to local drinking water sources.
- Preparing a Source Protection Plan for the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area to identify how these risks should be addressed.
- Implementing the source protection plan at the municipal level with municipalities inspecting and enforcing local measures against drinking water threats.

Each stage of the process will be accompanied by substantial public consultation components aimed at ensuring that input from the public-at-large and all key stakeholders is considered as the source protection plan is developed and implemented. (Summary Chart Appended)

In **Stage One** of the process, the source protection areas and authorities (SPAs) and source protection committees (SPCs) were established and technical studies were initiated.

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area cover the same geographical area. The Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Committee (SPC) was formed in 2007 as a multi-stakeholder group comprised of three municipal representatives, three members from the general public, and one member each from agriculture, industry, and business; plus a committee chair appointed by the province. The SPC is responsible for preparing a Terms of Reference, which includes the following:

- Mapping of the source protection area for municipal drinking water systems.
- Listing municipalities located in the source protection area
- Listing drinking water systems that will undergo source protection planning
- Preparing a work plan for the drafting of an assessment report, identifying what work is assigned to area municipalities and the SPC
- Preparing a work plan for the drafting of a source protection plan, identifying what work is assigned to area municipalities and the SPC.

Stage Two of the process involves the preparation of an **Assessment Report**. In this stage, several technical reports are prepared, according to provincial regulations, and Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) guidance materials. Current MOE guidance materials require that the assessment report include the following technical studies:

- Characterizing the source protection area/watershed.
- Determining the vulnerability of surface water sources to threats identified in the Assessment Report, including the identification of **Intake Protection Zones (IPZs)** around water treatment plant intakes
- Determining the vulnerability of groundwater water sources to any and all threats identified in the Assessment Report.
- Preparing a **Threats Inventory and Issues Evaluation** (particularly within the IPZs)
- Preparing a **Risk Assessment** (particularly within the IPZs and WHPAs)

The Assessment Report will identify the risks to the municipal residential drinking water systems that are listed in the terms of reference.

Stage Three involves developing the source protection plan, once the Assessment Report has been approved by the MOE. The source protection plan will set out policies and risk management measures to be implemented to reduce or eliminate significant threats to municipal drinking water supplies. Policies within the source protection plan will stipulate that the following tools be used to address the significant threats to municipal drinking water supplies. The tools include:

- Prohibiting activities identified as significant threats to municipal drinking water supplies.
- Regulating such activities through a Risk Management Plan
- Ensuring decisions are made through the province's Planning Act to ensure reduce or eliminate threats to municipal drinking water supplies.
- Launching education and outreach measures and incentive programs to encourage residents to take steps to protection drinking water sources.

The source protection plan must include policies for monitoring drinking water threats, along with programs and policies adopted by senior levels of government for protecting and preserving the Great Lakes to ensure the plan's effectiveness. The source protection plan will also identify those parties responsible for implementing the plan and for monitoring its progress.

Stage Four involves the implementation of the source protection plan and may require the amendment of Official Plans drafted by area municipalities and revisions to land-use zoning to help ensure that the objectives of the source protection plan are met. In some cases, a Risk Management Plan (a newly created municipal authority that regulates how activities identified as significant drinking water threats are addressed) may be required for a particular land use activity.

Roles and Responsibilities

As outlined in the CWA and provincial government guidance materials for realizing the goals of that legislation, the source protection planning process incorporates a collaborative approach involving Conservation Authorities, Source Protection Authorities, SPCs, and municipalities and local stakeholders. The roles and responsibilities of each are described below.

The role of the Source Protection Authority (*in Niagara, this is the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority*) is to:

- Establish the SPC
- Generally support the work of the SPC.
- Review the Terms of Reference, Assessment Report and source protection plan prepared by the SPC, comment on them, submit them for MOE approval.
- Ensure that the approved Terms of Reference are available to all key stakeholders and members of the general public
- Complete parts of the assessment report and source protection plan assigned to it in the Terms of Reference
- Prepare progress reports on activities undertaken under the CWA.

The role of the Conservation Authority is to:

- Facilitate and coordinate source protection planning within source protection areas.
- Have dedicated source protection staff that will support its role and responsibilities and those of the SPC.
- Use its years of experience in watershed management and its understanding of stakeholders within each watershed to pull together the science necessary to develop the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan under the guidance of the SPC
- Bring together the partners, facilitate working groups, including members of the public and other key stakeholders, to consult on the development and implementation of the Source Protection Plan.

The Role of the Source Protection Committee is to:

- Oversee the preparation of the Terms of Reference, Assessment Report and source protection plan for each source protection area.
- Ensure public consultation
- Meet on an ongoing basis to review annual progress reports and determine whether the source protection plan's objectives are being met after the plan is in effect.

Municipalities are a major stakeholder in the source protection process, and as such it is anticipated they will:

- Participate in consultations around the terms of reference
- Provide the source protection committee with council resolution for tasks they agree to complete concerning the assessment report and source protection plan
- Submit comments on the terms of reference, assessment report and source protection plan.
- Participate in the implementation of the source protection plan.

To date, the SPC has produced a **Draft Proposed Terms of Reference** for public review and comment.

More information, including a copy of the Draft Proposed Terms of Reference, is available for viewing on the internet at: <http://www.sourceprotection-niagara.ca> This document may be reviewed in person, Monday to Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., now through Friday, June 27, at the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority administration office on 250 Thorold Road West, 3rd Floor, Welland, Ontario L3C 3W2.

The Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Committee is encouraging members of the public to attend any one of the following three meetings to learn more and to comment on the Draft Proposed Terms of Reference for the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area;

DATE: Monday, June 23rd, 2008

TIME: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm (Presentation at 7:30)

LOCATION: Roselawn Centre - President Room; 296 Fielden Ave., PORT COLBORNE, ON

DATE: Wednesday, June 25th,

TIME: 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm (Presentation at 3:00 pm)

LOCATION: Four Points Sheraton - (Decew Room); 3539 Schmon Parkway, THOROLD, ON

DATE: Thursday, June 26th, 2008

TIME: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm (Presentation at 7:30 pm)

LOCATION: Casablanca Inn – (Reflections Room); 4 Windward Drive, GRIMSBY, ON

Each of these meetings will include a brief presentation followed by an opportunity for questions and comments by members of the public.

Comments on the **Draft *Proposed Terms of Reference*** may also be submitted in writing to the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Committee at the following address by July 7, 2008.

Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Committee

c/o Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Attention: Brian Wright, MBA, P.Eng.

Source Protection Coordinator

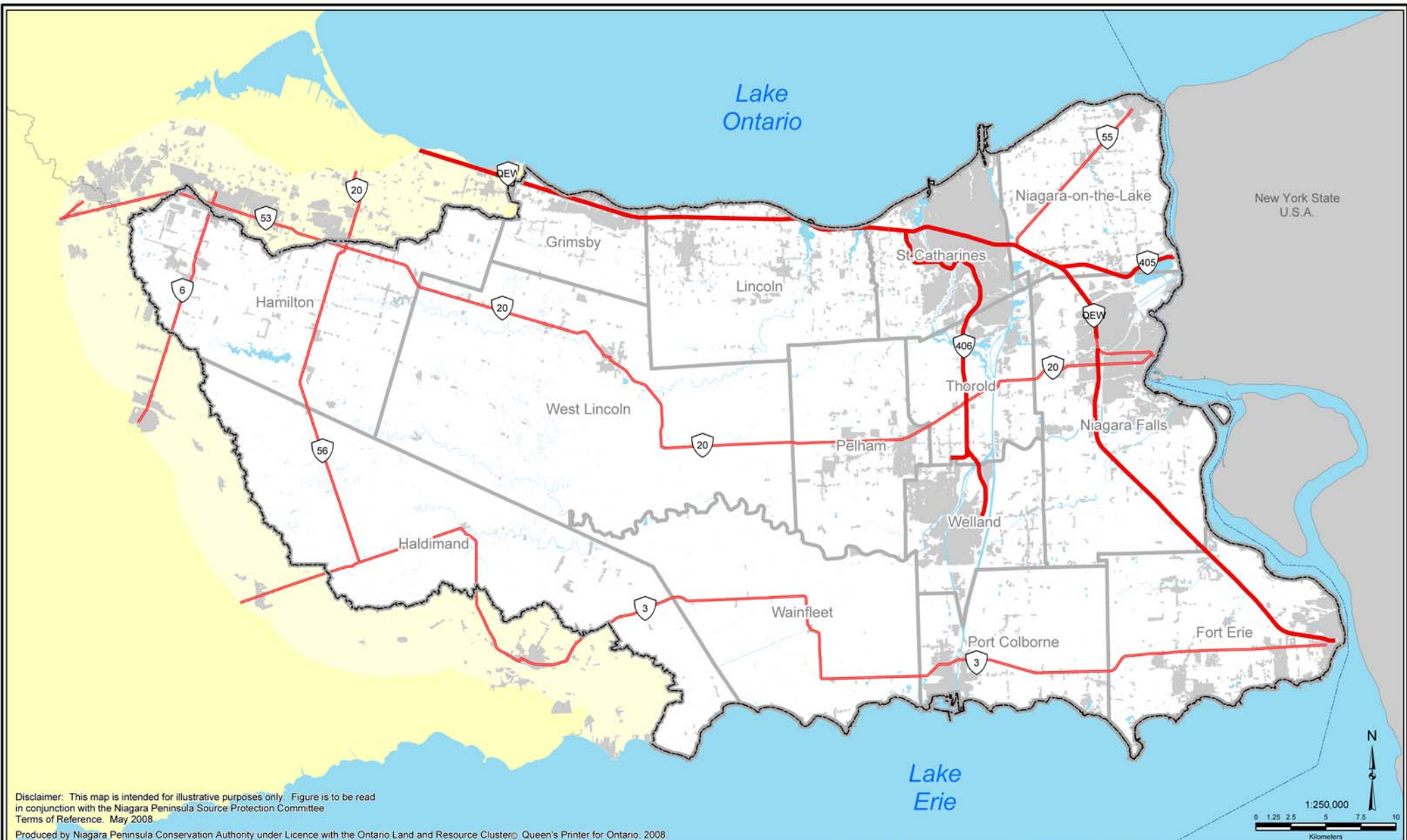
250 Thorold Road West, 3rd Floor

Welland, Ontario, L3C 3W2

Tel: 905-788-3135 ext. 253

Fax: 905-788-1121

Email: bwright@conservation-niagara.on.ca



Disclaimer: This map is intended for illustrative purposes only. Figure is to be read in conjunction with the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Committee Terms of Reference, May 2008.

Produced by Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority under Licence with the Ontario Land and Resource Cluster © Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2008.

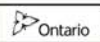
- Legend**
- SPA Boundary
 - International Boundary
 - Municipal Boundaries
 - Built-Up Areas
 - Major Highways
 - Highways
 - Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area



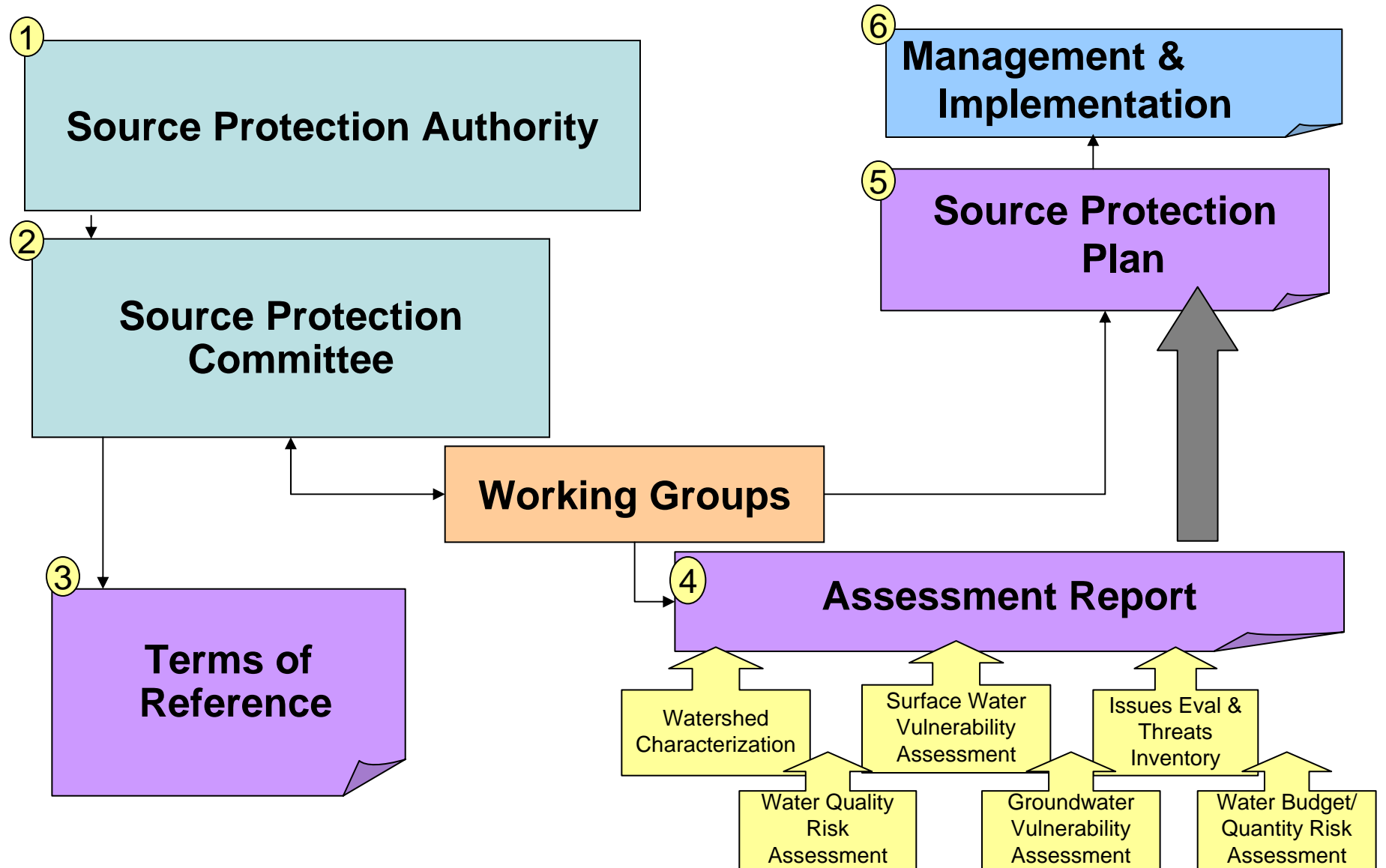
Source Protection Committee Terms of Reference

Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area

All Frames: North American Datum 1983, Universal Transverse Mercator 6° Projection, Zone 17N, Central Meridian 81° West.



Source Protection Planning – the Road Map



Source Protection Process Time

Year 1	Year 1-2	Year 3-5	Year 5 +
Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
<p>Laying the Foundation</p> <p>Establish source protection authorities</p> <p>Establish source protection committees</p> <p>Negotiate terms of reference</p>	<p>Assessment of Threats</p> <p>Identify and assess threats to drinking water</p> <p>Prepare assessment report</p>	<p>Source Protection Planning</p> <p>Prepare source protection plan, including policies to address significant threats to drinking water</p>	<p>Implementation</p> <p>Implement the source protection plan</p> <p>Inspect and Enforce</p> <p>Monitor and Report</p> <p>Review plan</p>

The source protection process will be rolled out in four stages.