

NIAGARA PENINSULA SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

WELLAND

August 10, 2010

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Neufeld, (Chair)
B. Antonsen
R. Bator
M. Bellantino-Perco
D. Ricker
T. Rigby
D. Semple
C. Shrive

MEMBERS ABSENT: D. Ostryhon
D. Renshaw

LIAISONS PRESENT: G. Hudgin, Niagara Public Health Representative
M. McHugh, Ministry of the Environment

LIAISONS ABSENT: B. Baty, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

STAFF PRESENT: B. Wright, Coordinator Source Protection
D. Gullett, Recording Secretary
M. Stack, Director of Communications

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Barrow, Niagara Region
M. Janas, Niagara Region
F. Kooka, Seaway Authority

ROLL CALL

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

BUSINESS:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m., welcomed everyone and requested that if anyone had a conflict of interest to declare it. He mentioned with his permission, there was one proxy from Mr. Renshaw to Mr. Antonsen, therefore the votes are to be recorded votes. The following resolution was then presented.

SPCR-47-10

MOVED BY: T. Rigby

SECONDED BY: R. Bator

THAT: The agenda be accepted as presented.

	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
B. Antonsen	√		R. Bator	√		M. Bellantino-Perco	√	
D. Renshaw	√		D. Ricker	√		T. Rigby	√	
D. Semple	√		C. Shrive	√				

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(1) MINUTES – June 22, 2010 SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chair asked if there were any errors or omissions on the June 22, 2010 minutes. There being none, the following resolution was then presented.

SPCR-48-10

MOVED BY: B. Antonsen

SECONDED BY: M. Bellantino-Perco

THAT: The minutes of the Source Protection Committee meeting held June 22, 2010 be received and approved as presented.

	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
B. Antonsen	√		R. Bator	√		M. Bellantino-Perco	√	
D. Renshaw	√		D. Ricker	√		T. Rigby	√	
D. Semple	√		C. Shrive	√				

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Mr. Bator thanked the Chair and Mr. Wright for circulating copies of his handouts to the committee.

(3) PORT COLBORNE DIESEL SPILL

The Chair introduced Captain Farrokh Kooka, Ship Inspector from The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (Seaway Authority), and Ms. Barrow introduced Mr. Mike Janas, Associate Director Water & Staff Development at Niagara Region. Mr. Kooka explained the diesel spill was caused when an overflow valve was mistakenly left open during the re-fueling of a tugboat. Approximately 700 litres overflowed into the canal from the tugboat. The owners of the vessel immediately activated their emergency response plan. To contain the spill, they placed a containment boom around the spilled oil and tugboat. Another boom was also placed around the municipal intake as a precaution to prevent oil-contaminated water from entering the intake. Marine Clean was contacted to complete the clean-up of the spill. The spilled oil was vacuumed up, and the clean-up was completed by the afternoon of the next day. During that time, the ships were required to go at minimal speed to avoid creating a wake which might have disrupted the containment booms.

Mr. Janas said the intake to the municipal water treatment plant (WTP) was shut off as a precaution to ensure contaminated water did not enter the WTP. Once the spill was contained and clean-up was well underway, the water at the intake was tested by

laboratory analysis to confirm it was not contaminated. The WTP resumed operation at 10 pm and residents were advised not to consume the water and that potable water stations had been setup across the city. Test results were received and the following morning and the Medical Officer of Health informed the public that the water was again safe to drink.

Mr. Bator questioned if the components in diesel fuel are water soluble? Ms. Barrow questioned the fuelling locations, and asked if was there any thought of relocating them? The committee was told there is no other viable location on the upper portion of the Welland Canal to locate the refueling station. The other refueling station is in Port Weller / St. Catharines.

The Seaway Authority is only responsible for shipping between Port Colborne and Port Weller. Anything occurring in Lake Erie is the Coast Guard's jurisdiction, except for a spill at the canal mouth when both agencies are responsible. The Niagara River is also patrolled by the Coast Guard. The public had asked why the booms were still in place and there was quite an odor even after the WTP has resumed operation. The reason for this was that the clean-up of the shoreline inside the boomed area was still going the next day. It was also noted that diesel has a strong odor which is detectable at very low amounts, and this may have given the impression that lots of oil was still present, but this was not the case. Also, water testing had been completed by that time which indicated the WTP was safe to operate.

The Region had nine water haulers on stand-by, and also distributed bottled water at various locations in Port Colborne for residents while the WTP was shut down. Mr. Bator wondered if there is any consideration to making the intake deeper, but was told this isn't feasible as the channel isn't very deep and there are already problems with weeds growing from the channel bottom which inhibit the flow at the intake.

The Chair expressed his appreciation to the Seaway Authority and Niagara Region for attending the meeting and answering the committee's questions, and for their quick response to the spill which prevented human health and economic damage.

(4) PRESENTATION – SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN (SPP) REGULATION

Ms. McHugh made a presentation on the Source Protection Plan (SPP) Regulation, and asked that questions be recorded to assist the MOE. The following questions were asked:

- Mr. Wright – For ease of policy writing, can the committee prohibit threat circumstances in areas that are unlikely to ever contain that activity (for instance, application of agricultural source material in downtown Port Colborne?)
- Mr. Semple – What if the risk isn't the use?
- Mr. Wright – What would the instrument be for a dry cleaner?
- Ms. Bellantino-Perco – Does the committee have the ability to amend provincial instruments?
- Mr. Rigby – Does the committee have the authority to override municipal policies?
- Mr. Ricker – What discretion does the SPA have to provide longer consultation periods?
- Ms. Bellantino-Perco – Who is responsible for a Risk Management Official?

Mr. Ricker said the committee may need to rethink having proxy votes with the power entrusted to us now.

(5) SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN – GANTT CHART

Mr. Wright requested committee members attend an SPP Regulation Training session on October 19, 2010, and also suggested doing a pilot project for the SPP policies. The Chair mentioned the moderate threats are optional. There is also plenty of pre-consultation in this process. The Chair also commented the submittal date of August 2012, is a deadline that won't change.

(6) IN-CAMERA - ASSESSMENT REPORT UPDATE

The Chair requested the Committee move in-camera to address the next item. The following resolution was then presented:

SPCR-49-10

MOVED BY: M. Bellantino-Perco

SECONDED BY: D. Ricker

THAT: This meeting does now move in-camera.

	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
B. Antonsen	√		R. Bator	√		M. Bellantino-Perco	√	
D. Renshaw	√		D. Ricker	√		T. Rigby	√	
D. Semple	√		C. Shrive	√				

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

This meeting is now back into open session.

(7) OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

(8) UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair reminded members if they hadn't responded in regards to their availability for October 19, 2010 training session to please do so. NPCA, Regional staff and the Chair went for a tour of the facility at the Central Pump Station. The Chair noted it was a state of the art facility for which the Region should be commended, and the operator explained the flaws and benefits.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm.

“D. Gullett, Recording Secretary

M. Neufeld, Chair”