



MOECC Agriculture Inspection Program and Source Protection Implementation

April 2018

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Overview

- Incorporation of source protection (SP) information into MOECC agriculture inspection program
- Role of MOECC Agricultural Environmental Officers (AgEOs) in source protection implementation

Incorporating Source Protection Information into Inspections

- MOECC considers SP information when selecting farms for inspection
- Risk ranked lists generated each year (ASM/NASM)
- Assigned risk score based on several variables, *including SP information*
 - operations deemed a potential significant drinking water threat are considered a priority risk
 - final site selection is made by the local District/Area office

Ag Program Proactive Inspections

- Primary focus on assessing compliance with the NM Act, regulations and the site specific requirements of a NMS, NMP or NASM Plan
- AgEOs do *not* assess compliance with the CWA, specifically:
 - They do not assess the contents of a NMS, NMP or NASM Plan to determine if it was prepared in accordance with SP policies
 - They do not assess compliance with any other policies made under a local Source Protection Plan
- We recognize AgEOs may engage with an operator who is subject to requirements under both the NMA and under a RMP and there may be some confusion in terms of roles/responsibilities

Agricultural Environmental Officers can...

- Obtain/provide general information on regulatory requirements under the *Environmental Protection Act*, *Pesticides Act*, *Environmental Assessment Act*, *Safe Drinking Water Act*, *NM Act* or *Ontario Water Resources Act*
- Provide basic information on *MOECC issued prescribed instruments*, e.g., confirm if an approval/permit has been issued for a particular operation, provide a copy of an issued MOECC instrument on request
- Provide contact information for different branches/staff within the ministry (e.g., for Source Protection Programs Branch)
- Help arrange pre-submission consultation meetings for clients planning on submitting an ECA or PTTW application

Agricultural Environmental Officers do *not*...

- Enter property under the authority of the Clean Water Act (MOECC environmental officers are not designated under that Act)
- Provide copies of NMA instruments (such as NMS, NMPs and NASM Plans) to RMOs/RMIs or the general public
- Assess if any instrument (issued by MOECC or any other party) complies with any SP plan prescribed instrument policy
- Provide advice on what measures should/could be included in a NMP, NMS, NASM Plan or a Risk Management Plan to address SP requirements

Questions?