



Integration with Great Lakes Protection



Overview of Technical Experts and Implementation
Committee Reports to the Minister of the Environment,
November, 2004

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Significance of Great Lakes

- TEC report notes that 80% of Ontario's population gets its drinking water from the Great Lakes and associated tributaries
- IC report states 45% of Canada's industries in Great Lakes
- But only 1% of water of the Great Lakes is renewable

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Great Lakes and source protection

- TEC report states that by managing tributary watersheds and reducing risks through source water protection, drinking water intakes located in large water bodies will be protected such as Great Lakes and connecting channels

Technical Experts Guiding Principles

- TEC report guiding principles include:
 - Source protection plans to protect all water sources in the watershed including the Great Lakes
 - Communities that draw their drinking water from the Great Lakes must participate in all source protection activities that influence their watershed

Downstream Safeguards

- TEC also recommends a guiding principle also that Ontarians understand that protecting components of hydrological cycle not only safeguards water locally but also downstream such as in Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River and James Bay

Equitable distribution

- TEC recommends that source protection requirements should ensure an equitable distribution of the burden of source water protection. This measure applies particularly to practices and activities in communities served by Great lakes

Implementation Committee Great Lakes recommendations

- IC recommends integration of water management and protection programs of all levels of government
- IC report also recommends that province ensure source protection principles, strategies and policies are incorporated into Great Lakes programs and agreements so that Great Lakes are protected and improved as sources of drinking water

IC Recommendations pertaining to Great Lakes

- Other IC recommendations would benefit Great Lakes such as consistency of provincial regulation and instruments with source protection plans; recommendations regarding cumulative loadings and non-point sources; recommendations regarding land drainage, permits to take water, water conservation, low water response and integrated approaches to funding



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