

Drinking Water Source Protection Technical Experts Committee Recommendations Related to Natural Areas



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Objective

- Review TEC recommendations related to natural areas and ecological protection



Some TEC Assumptions

- TEC charged with dealing with drinking water
 - Did consider this in context of other uses
- TEC made recommendations to Minister
 - Minister will decide what recommendations to accept and act on
- Readers would be familiar with O'Connor and Advisory Committee reports



Specific ecological recommendations are included in Section 7 but there are recommendations elsewhere.


In particular in Guiding Principles.

- Key because sets philosophy**



Recommended Guiding Principles

- **To control planning**
- **Guiding Principles related to Natural Areas :**
 - **Overall water management (Key)**
 - **Prov. Policy State. should include natural areas and healthy ecosystem**
 - **Retention and conservation of water on land (wetlands)**
 - **SPPs should specify ways to protect water for all users incl. Natural – in a number of places**



Section 7 – Ecological Protection*

- **2 sub-sections**
 - **Provincial Water Quality Objectives**
 - **Natural Areas**

*** TEC included ecological protection because of its role in drinking water quality and quantity protection.**




Provincial Water Quality Objectives

- Use existing PWQO as
 - Quality benchmarks, e.g. report to public
 - Determine assimilative capacity
 - In characterization of watershed
 - Use a suite of measures, not one
- PWQOs should be current and relevant
 - Need updating, consider other Canadian jurisdiction measures



Natural Areas (sub-section 2)

“ Features of the environment that are not generally used for intensive agriculture or human use. These features include wetlands, lakes, forest, meadows, etc. ”



Natural Areas Recommendations*

- Six specific recommendations
- Based on contributions of natural areas to **drinking water quality and quantity**

** Recommendations are supported by a detailed technical appendix in the report.*



N.A. Recommendations

- Include wetland and natural areas losses in threats inventory in initial planning cycle, protect in subsequent cycles (Rec. 86)
- Water budgets include area of landscape that are NAs and contribute to hydrology of DW (Rec. 87,88)
- Gov't should consider guidelines for minimum levels of NA as watershed health measure (Rec. 89)



N.A. Recommendations (cont'd)

- In intake zone evaluate and use artificial wetlands and buffers to help deal with quality and quantity issues (Rec. 90)
- SPPs should describe NAs and benefits to sources and ecological sustainability so both can be enhanced in the initial and subsequent plans (Rec. 91)