



# Drinking Water Source Protection: Aggregate Industry

## WHO IS THIS RESOURCE FOR?

This resource is for professionals in the aggregate industry.

## What is drinking water source protection?

The Ontario government established the Drinking Water Source Protection Program under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, to protect sources of municipal drinking water from contamination and depletion. Local source protection plan policies were developed to manage specific activities identified as threats to drinking water sources within vulnerable areas.

## What is a vulnerable area?

Local geological, hydrogeological and hydrological data were used to delineate drinking water vulnerable areas. In these areas, we need to pay attention to activities that may cause contamination or deplete our municipal drinking water sources.

Use the Source Protection Information Atlas to find out if your operation is in a vulnerable area where source protection plan policies apply. Find a link to this interactive mapping tool under Resources.

## How can this apply to an aggregate operation?

There are 22 prescribed threat activities under the *Clean Water Act*, which can pose a risk to municipal drinking water supplies. While aggregate extraction itself is not a prescribed threat, aggregate operations may increase the vulnerability of the groundwater to contamination. The removal of material decreases the time it takes contaminants to reach groundwater drinking water supplies. Other activities occurring at your operation may also be considered a threat.

## What are some examples?

Prescribed threats that might occur at an aggregate site include:

- Handling and storage of fuel
- An activity that takes water from an aquifer or surface water body without returning it to the same aquifer or surface water body
- Application, handling and storage of road salt
- Operation of septic systems



If your aggregate operation is in a vulnerable area, consider these questions and how these activities might pose a risk:

- Do you store fuel or refuel equipment on site?
- Are you taking water for dewatering or aggregate washing?
- Does the site have a septic system?

The local source protection plan indicates where these types of activities pose a risk, and whether the threat is low, moderate, or significant.

### Addressing the risk

Activities approved by your aggregate licences or permits (including site plans), and permits to take water may be subject to local source protection policies. In these cases, the ministries that issue these approvals are ensuring the licence or permit addresses the risk; for instance by prohibiting fuel storage on part of the site within a vulnerable area. Check your licence/permit/site plan for any specific source protection conditions.

Other policies may also apply. For example, if you are storing or applying road salt at your site, a risk management official from the municipality or conservation authority may need to work with you to prepare a risk management plan. This plan will put measures in place to protect drinking water sources. Existing best management practices for your industry may provide a foundation for the plan, or the risk might be addressed through conditions in your aggregate licence or permit.

### Resources:

To find out if your property is located in a vulnerable area where policies may apply, search the Source Protection Information Atlas at [ontario.ca/page/source-protection](http://ontario.ca/page/source-protection) and the Threats Dashboard at [swpip.ca/threats](http://swpip.ca/threats).

### What to do if there's a spill or leak:

- Report the spill to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Spills Action Centre at 1-800-268-6060.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions and your emergency spill response plan.
- Contain the spill using the method recommended by the manufacturer. This may include the use of materials from a spill kit, such as absorption pads or booms.



### For more information contact:

Name of local municipality  
Address line 1  
Address line 2  
Phone  
Email

Name of local source protection authority  
Address line 1  
Address line 2  
Phone  
Email



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