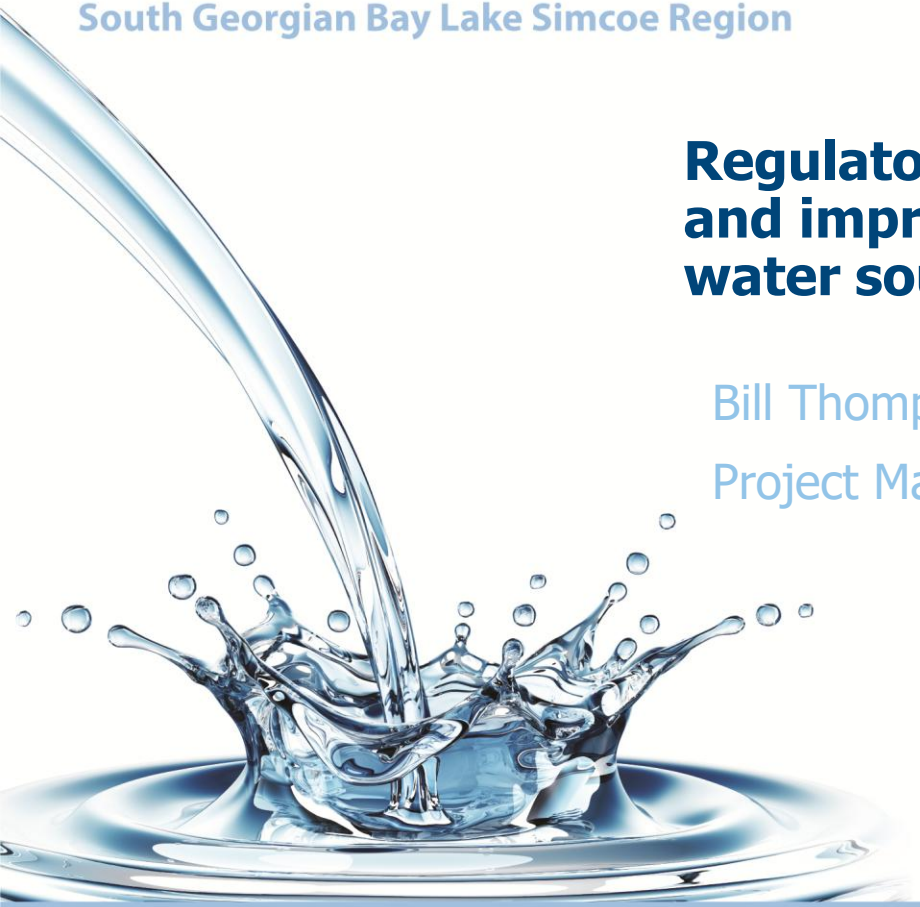
Source Water Protection
South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Region



Regulatory changes for accelerating and improving protections for drinking water sources

Bill Thompson

Project Manager







Water is life. Protect Yours.

Changes to the *Clean Water Act*

- Changes to the Clean Water Act
  - Announced in October 31, 2025
  - Provided overall intent of the changes
    - Speeding up approval of amendments
    - Providing consistency in Provincial instruments
- Changes to the Regulations
  - Announced June 30, 2026
  - Come into effect July 1 2026 and Jan 1 2027

Changes apply to three areas

1. Changes to the approval process
   - This agenda item
   - Now in legal effect
2. Prescribed instrument policies
   - Agenda item 1.2
   - In effect as of January 1, 2027
3. Use of sources of drinking water
   - Agenda item 1.3
   - Now in legal effect

Changes to the approval process

- Amendments had been following the approval process for the original plan
- That level of effort did not always seem necessary with amendments
- New Regulation includes:
  a) Expanded minor amendments
  b) Simplified consultation
  c) Option for local approval by Source Protection Authority
  d) Timeline for Minister approval

Three paths to approval



- Ministerial approval
  - Required when new policies are proposed
- Source Protection Authority approval
  - Required when existing policies are applied to new vulnerable area
- Minor amendments
  - Available when:
    - A new well at an existing system only changes the WHPA-A, and no new threats
    - A new vulnerable area extends into our SPR, but isn't associated with threats

NEW - Ministerial approval

- Technical work completed
- Early engagement
- Source Protection Committee presentation
- Municipal endorsement
- Public consultation
- Submission to Ministry for review
- Ministry confirms submission is complete New
- Submission to Minister for approval
- Minister response (within 120d) New

NEW – Source Protection Authority approval

- Technical work completed
- Early engagement
- Source Protection Committee presentation
- Submit Assessment Report to Ministry for review New
- Municipal endorsement
- Public consultation
- Ministry approves Assessment Report New
- Source Protection Authority approves amendment New

EXPANDED – Minor amendments

- Technical work completed
- Early engagement
- Confirm meets criteria for minor amendment
- Complete amendment and post online
- Inform Source Protection Committee, Ministry, municipality

What this will mean for …

- The Source Protection Committee
  - Likely nothing
- The proponent
  - In some cases, will lead to quicker decisions
- The public
  - No loss of protection to drinking water
  - No loss of opportunity to comment
  - Quicker decisions mean less costly for taxpayer

Thank you

Water is life. Protect Yours.

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION
SOUTH GEORGIAN BAY LAKE SIMCOE REGION

