
Frequently Asked Questions About Industrial / Commercial / Institutional Outreach and Activity Verification Site Visits

1. Why is my property being visited?

Your property is being visited because it is within a vulnerable area for your local municipal water supply well.

This is a program run by Wellington Source Water Protection and your municipality. The site visit program is an assessment of activities occurring on industrial / commercial / institutional properties to determine the potential for those activities to impact municipal wells. The visit is primarily an education visit to inform owners / tenants about the *Clean Water Act* and any potential obligations. Our consultants or staff will also walk you through a survey regarding activities such as chemical handling, fuel storage, waste etc.

2. What are the vulnerable areas for our local municipal water supply well?

The vulnerable areas include well head protection areas with a groundwater vulnerability score of 2, 4, 6, 8 or 10 (yellow, orange and red areas on maps) and 'issues contributing area'. An 'issues contributing area' is a well head protection area for a well that has a contaminant already present in the municipal well (ie nitrates, trichloroethylene). These areas have been established by local and provincial experts using the best available science. The results are published in watershed based Assessment Reports and Source Protection Plans. These documents can be found through our website www.wellingtonwater.ca

For questions regarding Source Water Protection and the related science, contact the Wellington Source Water Protection Risk Management Official – Kyle Davis at 519-846-9691 ext 362 or 1-844-383-9800

3. Who is Wellington Source Water Protection (WSWP)?

Wellington Source Water Protection (WSWP) is a municipal partnership between the Townships of Centre Wellington, Guelph/Eramosa, Mapleton, Puslinch, Wellington North, the Towns of Erin and Minto and the County of Wellington created to implement the requirements of the Clean Water Act and protect existing and future sources of drinking water.

Wellington Source Water Protection is a municipal partnership between Township of Centre Wellington | Town of Erin | Guelph / Eramosa Township | Township of Mapleton | Town of Minto | Township of Puslinch | Township of Wellington North | County of Wellington. The purpose of the *Clean Water Act* is to protect existing and future sources of drinking water

4. What is the Clean Water Act (2006)?

The Clean Water Act, 2006 (Bill 43) is a major part of the Ontario government's commitment to ensuring that every Ontarian has access to safe drinking water. Protecting water at its source is the first step in the multi-barrier approach to source water protection. By stopping contaminants from getting into sources of drinking water - lakes, rivers and aquifers - we can provide the first line of defense in the protection of our environment and the health of Ontarians. For the first time, communities will be required to create and carry out a plan to protect the sources of their municipal drinking water supplies

5. What is a Source Water Protection Plan?

The Clean Water Act (2006) requires the implementation of source water protection plans across Ontario. These plans direct local efforts to protect and keep municipal drinking water sources clean and plentiful by addressing and mitigating threats to drinking water. Wellington County is subject to five source protection plans which prescribe actions that need to be undertaken for certain activities.

6. Is there a cost to the site visit? Who do I pay?

No, there is not a cost to property owners / tenants.

7. Are all industrial / commercial / institutional properties in the County being visited?

No. Only those properties within vulnerable areas (Question 2) will be visited since they are closest to municipal wells and have the greatest chance of impacting a municipal well through activities on their properties.

8. Who will complete the site visit?

Depending on your municipality, it will either be municipal staff or a consultant hired to complete the site visits. The consultant is R.J. Burnside and Associates and they will be completing site visits in Erin, Puslinch, Centre Wellington, Mapleton and Wellington North. Municipal staff will be conducting the site visits in Minto and Guelph / Eramosa.

9. How do I schedule a site visit?

Erin, Puslinch, Centre Wellington, Wellington North, Mapleton

Once residents have received their information notice, please call R.J. Burnside at 1-800-265-9662 EXT. 1564.

Or go online at <https://rjburnside.youcanbook.me/>

Minto, Guelph / Eramosa

Municipal staff will be in touch to schedule a time for a site visit.

10. Do I have to do anything to prepare for the site visit?

If you have time, please look at a copy of the survey at www.wellingtonwater.ca to familiarize yourself with the type of questions and information that we will be asking.

11. Do I have to be present for the site visit?

Yes, it is important that someone familiar with the operations of the business be present. This could be an owner, manager, maintenance staff, supervisor, environmental or health and safety personnel, lead hand, foreman etc.

12. How long will the site visit take?

The site visit will take about 45 to 60 minutes.

13. What sorts of things will the site visit be looking at? Is this an inspection?

No, the site visit is not an inspection. This is an education visit to discuss the purpose of the *Clean Water Act* and whether there may be requirements for your business to follow. Whether requirements apply to your business depends on the activities being conducted there. In particular, the *Clean Water Act* prescribes 21 types of activities including: waste handling, fuel storage, chemical handling (organic solvents and dense non-aqueous phase liquids), fertilizer storage and application, pesticide storage and application, road salt application and storage. Requirements under the *Clean Water Act* and Source Protection Plan are generally volume or chemical based. Small volumes of chemicals associated with these activities generally will not trigger requirements. The purpose of the site visits is to determine the approximate volumes and / or chemicals on site.

14. Is a copy of the site visit survey available on the internet?

Yes, a copy of the site visit survey is provided on our website: www.wellingtonwater.ca

15. Will you be reviewing anything else on my property?

No, we will not be looking at anything other than the activities listed on the site visit form.

16. Will you be testing my water?

No. But you may want to do this on your own if you have your own well, as it is a good practice and your local health unit will do it for free. Sample bottles can be picked up at your local health unit office and many municipal offices including Guelph / Eramosa, Puslinch, Erin and Wellington North.

17. Will the site visit program ever be expanded to other properties?

Wellington Source Water Protection is also conducting similar outreach visits to agricultural properties. Residential properties (and some agricultural, industrial, commercial and institutional) properties may also be subject to the mandatory septic inspection program.

For more information, please contact:

Wellington Source Water Protection

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