



Source Protection

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Water Stewardship Council

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Introduction



Interior Health

Presentation Today

- Context of source protection in the Drinking Water Protection Act
- Expectations of Interior Health (both what we expect and what is expected of us)
- Opportunities for action



Drinking Water Protection Act

- Drinking water is recognized as a public health issue
- Prevention and protection
- Source to tap



Drinking Water Protection Act - Source Protection

- Assessments
- Drinking Water Assessment Response Plans
- Drinking Water Protection Plans

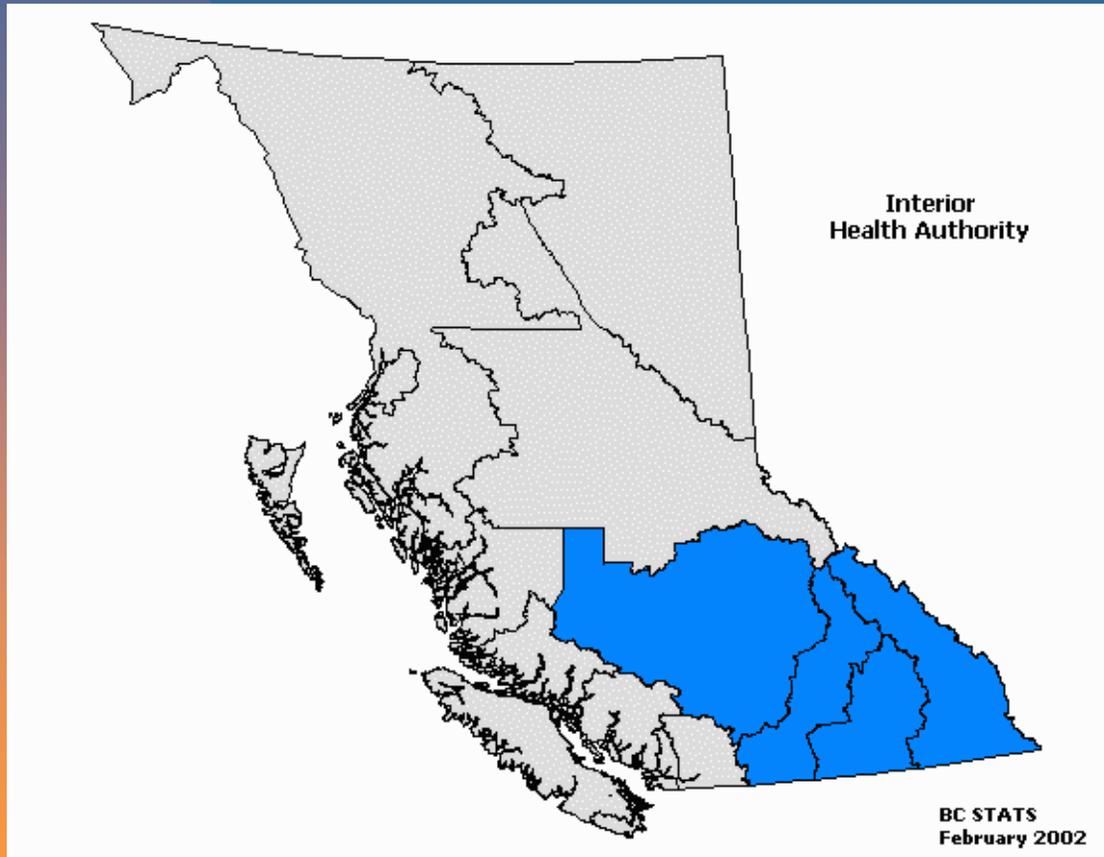
Drinking Water Protection

- Prohibition against contaminating or tampering
- Spills must be reported to the DWO if they pose a threat to drinking water
- Persons employed by the public service of the Province, or officials acting under the authority of a specified enactment must report any situation they observe, or of which they become aware that they consider may be a threat to drinking water to the drinking water officer

Hazard Abatement

- If drinking water health hazard exists
- If there is significant risk of an imminent drinking water health hazard

Interior Health Framework



- 50 DWOs
- 1600+ water supply systems

Drinking Water Quality Improvement Program

- Currently underway to apply typical conditions to operating permits of large water supply systems
- Population Health approach
- Not all conditions apply to all systems



Interior Health Priorities

- Population Health Approach – focusing on large systems, DWQIP
- Establishing treatment standards, 43210
- Working with water suppliers
- Consistent approach across IH, Policies and Procedures, DWLC, Information management



IH Approach to Source Protection

Vision: Healthy People Healthy Places

Consultation with Ministries, Industry
and Institutions

Guiding Principles

Long and Short Term Goals



Guiding Principles

- Drinking water is a public health issue
- Health objectives for watershed management should be evidence based

Guiding Principles

- Management of resource development in watersheds and aquifer recharge zones
- Determinants of Health include economic well-being

Guiding Principles

- Population Health Approach
- Watershed management does not replace need for drinking water treatment and vice versa

What is expected of IH?

- Identification of HEALTH threats
- Can require water suppliers to assess and remediate health threats
- Can require persons contaminating drinking water to remediate
- What does this look like, and how does it fit into health protection priorities?

A case to consider:

- NORD received a request of support from the Cattlemen's Association for new range tenures in salvage logging proposed for areas where is pine susceptible to beetle kill

Context

- Some existing grazing tenures
- Bacteriological testing indicates that more than 50% water supply samples are positive for fecal coliforms
- Historical data shows that most of the fecal coliforms may be attributed to wildlife
- Surface water supply systems are not filtered. Large systems are looking at a 10 year time line for filtration

Observations

- Request to NORD identified economic benefits
- NORD identified the need for proposals to minimize impact on water quality
- NORD requested input from Interior Health after agreeing to support the concept of new tenures (with conditions)

IH Response

- There is an expectation that there will be shared use in watersheds
- There is public health risk associated with cattle grazing activities in watersheds
- There are many public health risks associated with activities in watersheds – we expect treatment AND source protection
- Approval agencies should be considering impacts on drinking water where land use decisions are being made

Next Steps

- NORD formation of a watershed protection group to examine multiple activities in watersheds
- Potential to collaboratively manage impacts on watersheds – to at least maintain current levels of impact possibly improve current management practices
- Treatment?

What does IH expect?

- Appropriate actions from provincial Ministries and approving authorities with responsibility of activities that can affect drinking water source protection
- Participation by stakeholders in local processes to identify drinking water source protection

Memorandum of Understanding

- Formation of Regional Drinking Water Teams
- Consultation with Stakeholders
- Potential for identification of key issues to be addressed by multiple agencies at a high level
- WSABC conference water suppliers priorities for source protection action

What should approvals consider?

We are suggesting plans that:

- identify all the drinking water sources in the planning area;
- include practices that recognize the protection of drinking water sources as a primary concern
- use qualified professionals to develop a watershed assessment plan specific to drinking water
- develop contingency plans that includes contact information for Interior Health and affected water suppliers
- include mutual oversight and monitoring of water quality by the resource user and the approving body
- Include provision for water supply to be restored to its pre-existing condition after a disruption of service prior to continuing resource activity.

Opportunities for Action

- Identify high priority watersheds and aquifers
- Inventory of issues



What to do about:

- Cattle grazing – range tenures?
- Sewage disposal?
- Increased recreation use - motorized recreational vehicles, boating and camping?
- Logging – and particularly salvage logging of pine susceptible to beetle kill?
- Increased pressures for development

Assessments, Assessment Response Plans and Drinking Water Protection Plans

- What is an assessment?
- Who does an assessment?
- Who pays for assessments?
- How many assessments have been ordered?
- What are the benefits of assessments?

What can the Okanagan Water Basin Board do?

- Can you support water suppliers where assessments and assessment response plans could result in best management practices supported by local authority zoning or other land use regulation?
- Can you support planning or by-laws to prevent land use conflicts leading to drinking water deterioration?

What can the Okanagan Water Basin Board do?

- Is there enough information available in assessment or monitoring form that could be used to demonstrate the need for a Drinking Water Protection Plan?
- Would the Board have the capacity to support the development of a Drinking Water Protection Plan?

How can IH support your actions?

Perhaps:

- Drinking water officers skilled in the identification of indicators of health hazards?
- Development of “triggers” for assessment supports?
- Facilitation of stakeholder groups for consultation?

Summary of key messages

- Shared use of watersheds
- Approval agencies should be considering impacts on drinking water where land use decisions are being made
- Is drinking water protection sustainable?
- IH expects treatment AND source protection



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