

Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan (HH RAP) Beneficial Uses

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**RESTRICTIONS ON DRINKING WATER CONSUMPTION**



**STATUS**

2002 Status	Impaired	Requires Further Assessment	Not Impaired
2012 Status	Impaired	Requires Further Assessment	Not Impaired

**APPROVED BY 2012 RAP STAKEHOLDER FORUM:**

1. Beneficial Use ix status remain "not impaired".
2. Beneficial Use ix delisting objective wording will remain the same.
3. No further assessment of Beneficial Use ix will be necessary prior to the Stage 3 Report.

**2002 HH RAP Delisting Objective:**

That Hamilton Harbour water outflow to Lake Ontario not give rise to water quality restrictions on the water intakes for Hamilton and Halton.

**Why Keep the 2002 Status and HH Wording?**

**Reasonable:** Regardless of Hamilton Harbour not having its own drinking water intakes, it is reasonable that Hamilton Harbour outflows should not negatively impact local Lake Ontario intakes.

**Achievable:** Hamilton Harbour has always achieved a "not impaired" status for this BUI.

**Measurable:** Water quality parameters are measured at both water intakes. Water currents leaving the Burlington Ship Canal have been measured and modeled.

**What Was the Original Problem in Hamilton Harbour?**

This BUI has never been applicable to the HHRAP. There are no drinking water intakes in Hamilton Harbour despite it meeting "objectives for a potable water supply" (HHRAP 1992, p. 26).

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**IJC Listing Guideline (1991):**

When treated drinking water supplies are impacted to the extent that: 1) densities of disease-causing organisms or concentrations of hazardous or toxic chemicals or radioactive substances exceed human health standards, objectives or guidelines; 2) taste and [odour] problems are present; or 3) treatment needed to make raw water suitable for drinking is beyond the standard treatment used in comparable portions of the Great Lakes which are not degraded (i.e. settling, coagulation, disinfection).

**How Are Things Today?**

- This BUI has never been applicable to the HHRAP as there are no drinking water intakes in Hamilton Harbour.
- The treatment processes Hamilton and Halton use to make raw water suitable for drinking are similar to the standard treatment used in comparable portions of the Great Lakes.
- Local water treatment plants deal with seasonal taste and odour issues and periods of increased turbidity; however, these are not linked to HH outflow.
- EC modeled the hypothetical impact of moving Skyway WWTP effluent into Lake Ontario (Miners et al 2002). Even combined with Woodward WWTP flows, the two drinking water intakes were not impacted.
- Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee has considered the potential affects of Hamilton Harbour water on Hamilton and Halton drinking water intakes during a spill scenario. Additional work is planned in 2012/13 to assess if there is a threat. This work is beyond the reach of this BUI which is focused on persistent day-to-day conditions.

**REFERENCES**

**Where Can I Learn More?**

- HHRAP. 2003. Remedial Action Plan for Hamilton Harbour. Stage 2 Update 2002.
- Miners, K.C., F. Chiochio, Y.R. Rao, B. Pal, and C.R. Murthy. 2002. Physical Processes in Western Lake Ontario Affecting Sustainable Water Use.
- HHRAP. 1992. Remedial Action Plan for Hamilton Harbour. Goals, Options and Recommendations: RAP Stage 2.
- Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee [www.protectingwater.ca](http://www.protectingwater.ca)

*Most references can be provided by the HH RAP Office as a PDF upon request*