

Components of a Protocol for Microbial Source Tracking in Ontario

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A Draft Protocol for Microbial Source Tracking in Ontario

- Establishment of a social contract between all those who are impacted by the established contamination, or who may be impacted by the establishment of sources, leading to the development of an agreed action plan.
- Creation of an inventory of potential sources, identification of the likelihood of those sources entering the impacted water resources, selection of the microbiological techniques appropriate to establishing the sources contributing to contamination, and the formation of a suitable sampling program.
- Identification and implementation of suitable management options to reduce or prevent further impairment of the water resources.

Proposed Components of a Protocol for Microbial Source Tracking for Contamination of Water Resources

Three elements suggested, but are there other aspects that need to be included?

- Should be as inclusive as possible
Are there limits to inclusiveness?
- Need some degree of risk assessment associated with potential sources before microbiological test techniques and sampling schemes are developed.
How important might this be?
- Implementation of better management practices should be a key part of the source tracking activity.
What other actions should be included to bring about the required changes in water quality?