

APPENDIX F:

Source Water Protection for Community Water Supply Wells



Source Water Protection (SWP) plans are designed to protect community water supplies. A **Wellhead Protection (WHP)** plan is a specific kind of SWP plan that focuses on protecting the groundwater that supplies a community water well. WHP plans provide an excellent foundation on which Pike County communities can build for long-term groundwater management and protection.

Creating a WHP plan involves the following steps:

1. **Create a local community-based advisory committee** to provide input and assistance in directing the development of a WHP plan. In addition to community residents, elected officials, water system operators, watershed organization representatives, emergency management coordinators and conservation district staff are all candidates to participate on an advisory committee.
2. **Identify the area to be protected** by mapping the boundaries of the aquifers or community groundwater supplies found beneath the earth's surface. To accomplish this, a professional hydrogeologist or scientist with expertise in the field of groundwater management and protection is typically employed.
3. **Within the mapped area, identify and inventory risks for groundwater contamination** including commercial and industrial facilities, stockpiles of road salt, underground storage tanks, small-scale livestock operations, on-lot sewage disposal systems, abandoned wells and transport trucks hauling home heating oil and other potential contaminants on roads that cross over community aquifers.
4. **Develop a management and protection program** including risk management strategies, prioritizing potential sources of contamination for action, educating residents and developing emergency response plans including identifying alternative water sources.
5. **Implement your community Wellhead Protection Plan**

As a voluntary program, citizen involvement is critical to the success of the development and implementation of any WHP plan. Residents

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can encourage their community association and the operators of their community water supply to develop a plan.

For any community interested in creating a new WHP plan or building on an existing plan, a community representative can contact the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association (www.prwa.com/v2/index.asp) at 800-653-PRWA or the PA DEP, Bureau of Watershed Management at www.depweb.state.pa.us/dep/site/default.asp, select “Water Topics” and “Source Water and Groundwater Protection” or call 717-787-5259.