

**Wellhead Protection** is preventing the pollution or depletion of ground water supply sources by managing potential sources of contamination and by planning for the future.

In order to protect a public water supply source, the area that supplies water to the source must be delineated. This area is referred to as the **Wellhead Protection Area or Ground Water Protection Area**. This step could be as simple as drawing a circle around the source, or could be more complicated involving the use of hydrogeologic and/or topographic boundaries. The complexity of the mapped protection area often depends upon the availability of technical expertise. New York Rural Water Association's Source Protection Specialist, **Steve Winkley**, is an experienced hydrogeologist.

Once you know where your water is coming from, you **inventory** the land uses in the protection area. The inventory will show whether or not there are any potential sources of contamination in the area that may threaten the water supply source.

The next step is to determine how to **manage** the protection area to reduce present or future threats to the source. Depending on local conditions, you may want to conduct an educational program, inform local officials, develop a protection ordinance, purchase additional land/easements, make improvements, etc.

The final step is to **plan for the future**. This step includes identifying future hazards and developing solutions. It often involves development of a water supply emergency response plan to ensure that you have a water supply source in the event of contamination or physical disruption.

## **Key Reasons To Develop A Wellhead/Ground Water Protection Program**

- 1. To protect public health.**  
*Protecting your water supply sources from chemical and microbiological contamination keeps people from getting sick.*
- 2. To avoid future capital outlays and increased user charges.**  
*"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." It costs a lot more to respond to contamination, disruption, or depletion of a source of supply than it does to prevent it in the first place. Installing treatment facilities, locating new water sources, purchasing water, or remediating contamination are costly alternatives.*
- 3. To protect your investment.**  
*A wellhead/ground water protection plan helps to safeguard costly investments in your water system's infrastructure.*
- 4. To maintain consumer confidence.**  
*Developing a wellhead/ground water protection program will help instill public confidence in water purveyors and/or local officials.*
- 5. To reduce your potential liability.**  
*Taking steps to protect your water supply source(s) may shield you from the physical and economic claims resulting from a contamination incident or other loss of source water.*
- 6. To preserve valuable drinking water sources for future generations.**  
*If we don't do it now, our children will have fewer choices.*

### **THE BOTTOM LINE:**

**It's the right thing to do, now is the right time, and it's free  
with  
New York Rural Water Association's assistance.**

**The New York Rural Water Association's wellhead and ground water protection assistance includes:**

- *protection area delineation and mapping;*
- *potential contaminant threat identification and evaluation;*
- *public information and outreach;*
- *coordination with local and state officials;*
- *design of regulatory and nonregulatory management strategies;*
- *draft of wellhead or ground water protection plans for local review;*
- *appraisal of groundwater resources for possible alternate sources;*
- *assessment of system vulnerability;*
- *emergency response planning; and*
- *research of funding sources.*

**The New York Rural Water Association** will help you with all of the steps of your wellhead protection program. Most importantly, we will work with you to develop a program that meets your specific needs. This technical assistance is **available at no cost**. To get started on your wellhead protection program or to find out more, call Steve Winkley of the New York Rural Water Association at 518-828-3155.

**The New York Rural Water Association** is a non-profit organization with a very simple goal: helping rural water, wastewater, and solid waste systems provide safe drinking water and protect the environment at an affordable cost to the user. The Association is run by and for smaller water, wastewater, and solid waste systems.

Our program includes: training classes for system personnel, managers, and decision-makers; technical assistance; an information network to keep you in touch with your neighbor's systems; and an effective voice in matters that concern you with regulating agencies, and state and federal leaders.

**New York Rural Water Association** also provides in-field technical support. Our skilled staff will work with you in the field on any of system's needs such as leak detection; pipe and valve installation; plant operation; treatment; cross connections; smoke testing; and assistance on budgets, rates, operation and maintenance programs, wellhead and source water protection programs, and recycling programs.

In short, the Association is here to serve you. Call or write us about any of your problems. We may not have all the answers—we just usually know where to find them.

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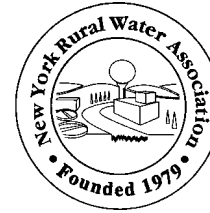
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**New York Rural Water  
Association**

## **Wellhead and Ground Water Protection**

### *Free Technical Assistance*

