

Steps To Prepare A SWPP

1. Form a Community Planning Team to develop and implement a SWPP.
2. Review the Source Water Assessment prepared by DWB to identify the source water protection areas.
3. Review the Source Water Assessment to identify the actual and potential sources of contamination in the protection areas and how susceptible your source water is to contamination.
4. Develop a list of ways to prevent contamination of the source water protection areas. Examples include public education, zoning, ordinances, fencing and signage.
5. Using information gathered from steps 1 - 4 above, prepare a draft SWPP. The SWPP should outline current and future approaches to prevent source water contamination.
6. Take action to implement the SWPP.

For More Information

Call the Drinking Water Bureau at

877-654-8720

Visit the Drinking Water Bureau's website at

www.nmenv.state.nm.us/dwb/dwbtop.html

Some of the resources you can view are:

Contact Information

State and Federal Regulations

Guidance Documents

Also, visit EPA's Source Water Protection website at:

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/sourcewater/>

New Mexico Environment Department

Drinking Water Bureau

Source Water Protection



What's A SWPP?

The New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) Source Water Protection Program staff provide technical and planning assistance to community water systems to develop and strengthen Source Water Protection Plans (SWPP).

A SWPP protects your drinking water by identifying and managing actual or potential contamination sources that threaten your drinking water supply. Preventing contamination is much cheaper and easier than cleaning up a contaminated source.

DWB has already completed some of the steps necessary for a SWPP, including: identifying areas to be protected; inventorying actual and potential contamination sources; and determining how susceptible water source areas are to contamination.

These steps were completed in 2002 - 2005 as part of the Source Water Assessment Program and a report has been provided to your public water system. Completing the final steps of developing and implementing a SWPP are dependent on your water system and the community it serves, but DWB can assist you with the process.

Source Water and Contamination

Most of New Mexico's drinking water comes from groundwater wells, though increasingly, surface water is being utilized. Groundwater is the water that fills the spaces in the ground below the earth's surface. The saturated zones below the earth's surface are known as *aquifers* and are replenished by water seeping into the ground from the surface and near surface. When the water seeping into the ground contains contaminants like nitrates from septic tanks, oil or pesticides, these contaminants are transported into the groundwater. Surface water may be contaminated by runoff, erosion, agriculture and direct discharge to surface water bodies. By keeping sources of contamination away from areas where your source water may be impacted, your water supply can be protected!

