Why Should You Participate in a Source Water Protection Project?

Look at the statistics:

- Abandoned wells are one of the leading causes of groundwater contamination. There are an estimated 100,000 abandoned oil and gas wells and 150,000 abandoned water wells in Texas.
- Used oil from one oil change can contaminate up to 1,000,000 gallons of water.
- Non-point source pollution (fertilizer, pesticides, animal waste) is the leading cause of water quality problems in the U.S.
- The average home can produce up to 100 pounds of hazardous waste in one year.
- Failing septic systems can contaminate the groundwater or surface water that you or your neighbors drink.

Also:

- Your water system may avoid or reduce costs from treatment, remediation, and litigation.
- Replacing a contaminated well can cost your water system more than $25 a foot.
- You can get assistance in locating funding through grants and loans for implementing best management practices.
- All projects are recognized at the annual public drinking water conference and on the TCEQ Web site.
- This free service provided by the TCEQ only requires minimal resources from the water system.

To Find Out More:

Drinking Water Protection Team, MC-155
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
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Austin, TX 78711-3087

E-mail: swpdata@tceq.state.tx.us

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Or visit us on the Web:
www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/sourcewater

Drinking Water Protection Team
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

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GI-395 (4/09)

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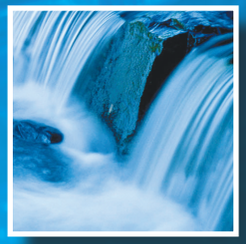
PROTECT YOUR SOURCE OF WATER

with a Source Water Protection Project



What Is a Source Water Protection Project?

The TCEQ partners with your water system to set up a Source Water Protection Project for little or no cost. The project identifies potential sources of contamination and recommends best management practices to prevent pollution from entering your drinking water source.

How Can a Source Water Protection Project Help Your Water System?

- Protect your drinking water source from contamination
- Offer free technical assistance to your water system
- Provide education and outreach materials
- Assist in developing a source water protection plan
- Recommend best management practices
- Provide presentations for local officials and the public
- Offer examples of contingency plans, ordinances, and best management practices
- Identify funding opportunities

A Source Water Protection Project Includes:

- A stakeholders' planning meeting, which introduces the project to all interested parties.
- A map outlining the source water protection area, including locations of all sources of drinking water (wells, lakes, springs, etc.)
- A list of potential sources of contamination, created by TCEQ and then verified on the ground by your water system
- Site specific measures that may be initiated by your water system. These measures may include public education and best management practices for each source water protection area
- A contingency plan that provides a strategy for supplying safe water to consumers in the event of contamination or disruption in service

Potential Sources of Contamination

Airport
Animal Feeding Operation
Auto Parts (New or Used)
Auto Repair, Sales, Salvage
Battery Mfg., Sales
Boat Ramp, Storage
Cattle Dipping Vat
Cemetery
Cesspool
Chemical Mixing Site, Storage
Cotton Gin
Domestic Waste or Burn Pile
Dry Cleaner
Fertilizer Mfg., Sales, Application
Fireworks Mfg., Retail
Golf Course
Grain Elevator
Gun Range
Holding Pond
Holding Tank
Industrial Hazardous Waste
Inorganic Chemical Industry
Injection Well (Class I, II, III, V)
Land Application Sludge
Lift Station
Livestock/Animal Pens
Marina
Metal Plating Industry
Mined Land
Municipal Solid Waste
New or Used Oil Site
Oil Field Sludge Disposal
Oil/Gas Production Tanks
Oil/Gas Well
Organic Chemical Industry
Paint Shop
Perchlorate Site
Pesticide Mfg., Sales, Application
Petroleum Chemical Industry
Petroleum Storage Tank
Photo Processing
Pipeline
Plastic Mfg., Sales
Pulp or Paper Mill
Radiochemical Site
Septic System
Sugar Refining
Tire Sales, Repair
Waste Transfer Station
Wastewater Outfall
Wastewater Treatment Plant
Water Well
Wood Preserving