

If You Drink Water “READ THIS” WHP Newsletter

Stewartstown Borough has developed a **WELL HEAD PROTECTION PLAN**

Technical Assistance provided by;
James R. Holley & Associates, Inc., Dennis Sarpen
Geological Services, Inc., Paul R. Miller, PG
Pennsylvania Rural Water Association Groundwater-Source Water Protection Program, Judy Muehl
Funded by York County Block Grants & PA Department of Environmental Protection

For More Information Contact: Stewartstown Borough 1-717-993-2963 ext. 205

What are the steps in preparing a Well Head Protection Plan?

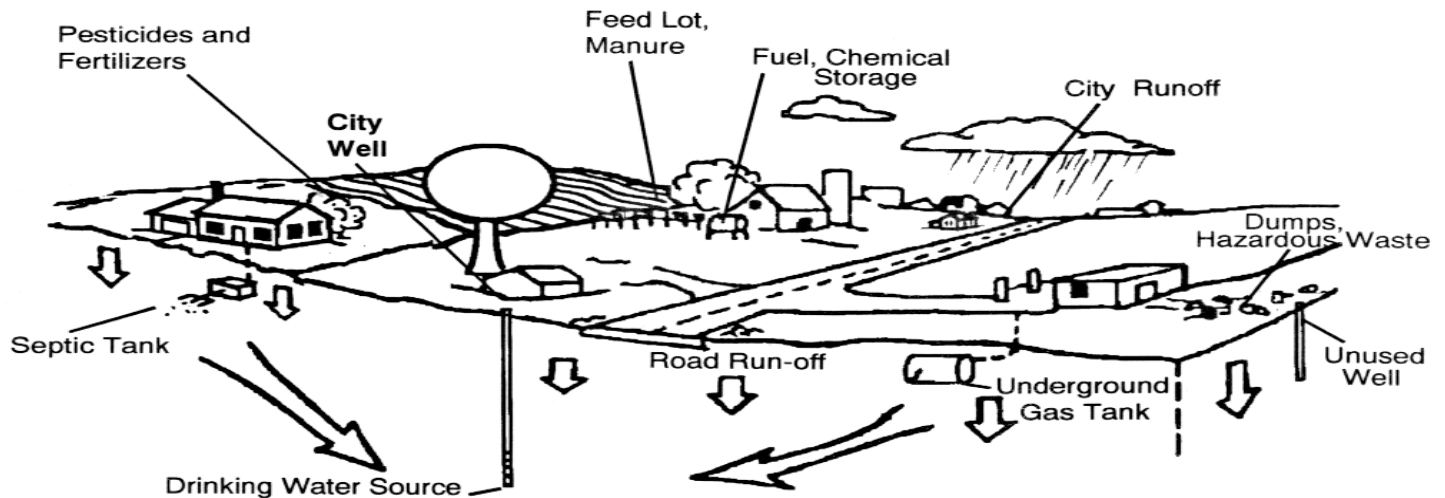
- Form a Community WHP Planning team.
- Identify the land area to be protected.
- Identify land uses and possible sources of pollution in the Well Head Protection Area and determine how vulnerable the Well Head Protection Area is to pollution.
- Implement ways to prevent groundwater pollution.
- Develop an alternate way to supply water if the public drinking water resources become polluted.

Most People in Pennsylvania get drinking water from wells

Well Head Protection is a way to prevent drinking water from becoming polluted by managing possible sources of contamination in the area, which supplies water to a public well. Everyone has an important part to play in protecting drinking water wells and springs. Today and for the future, Well Head Protection is a community effort. We hope you will read this and other information forwarded to you through newsletters from Stewartstown Borough and Hopewell Township and help protect our water supply.

Why do wells become polluted?

Wells become polluted when substances that are harmful to human health get into the groundwater. Water from these wells can be dangerous to drink when the level of pollution rises above health standards. Many of our everyday activities can cause pollution. Much can be done to prevent pollution, such as wise use of land and chemicals. The expense of treating polluted water or drilling new wells can also be avoided. Help avoid drinking water contamination by being an environmentally aware citizen.



Examples of Source Water Contamination

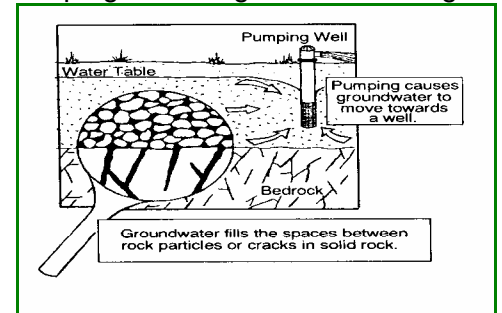
What is Groundwater?

Groundwater is the water that fills the small spaces between rock particles (sand, gravel, etc.) or cracks in solid rock. Rain, melting snow or surface water becomes groundwater by seeping into the ground and filling these spaces. The top of the water-saturated zone is called the "water table".

When water seeps in from the surface and reaches the water table, it begins moving towards points where it can escape, such as wells, rivers, or lakes.

An aquifer is any type of geologic material, such as sand or sandstone, which can supply water to wells or springs.

The groundwater, which supplies wells, often comes from within a short distance (a few miles or less) of the well. How fast groundwater moves depends on how much the well is pumped and what type of rock particles or bedrock it is moving through.



WE NEED YOUR HELP! What can you do?

Things you can do to help protect the local groundwater:

- 1) If you use automobile products or change your motor oil at home, use and dispose of the products properly.
- 2) Use lawn fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides according to directions on package, more is not better.
- 3) Be aware of what you throw on the ground, remember it doesn't just disappear, it goes into the aquifer.
- 4) Conserve water at home and at work.
- 5) If you have an under ground storage tank for heating oil or any petroleum products, empty and abandon the tank immediately and replace with a proper above ground storage tank. *(Just this month we were involved with a leaking 1000-gallon underground fuel tank in Hopewell Township. The tank was leaking and the property owner did not know. The property owner's private well pump quit and they needed a plumber to replace their pump. In this process oil was detected in the well. Their well is now polluted and they are now working with D.E.P. and a Consultant. They are responsible for on site clean up and reclamation of oil on the site. They also now need to find another source of water for their use. Don't let this happen to you!)*

A message from the Well Head Protection Committee:

The Safe Drinking Water Act re-authorized in 1996 included new requirements of the states and their public water systems. The Act required each state to develop a Well Head Assessment and Protection Program to assess the susceptibility of public water supplies to pollution.

In October, 2001 the first grant application Stewartstown Borough made was to York County under the Community Development Block Grant program. York County issued a grant contract to Stewartstown Borough in 2002 and a consultant was selected in 2003. The second grant application was made to York County in 2002. York County issued grant contracts to Stewartstown Borough in 2003 and 2004 and a consultant was selected in 2004. Stewartstown Borough submitted a Source Water Protection Grant application to the Commonwealth of PA in early 2003. Stewartstown Borough received the grant award from PA in early 2005 to complete a delineation of the recharge area of our water resources and develop a local plan to protect the resources and educational program.

The Stewartstown Well Head Protection Committee was appointed in the summer of 2002. The Committee consists of Stewartstown Borough & Hopewell Township citizens, Water Department Personnel, Pa. Rural Water, Engineer and Geologist. They have met throughout the past 3 years, learning about the water system and groundwater recharge in the area. The WHP committee submitted their recommendations on a Well Head Protection Ordinance to the Stewartstown Borough Council, which has been adopted.

We have learned during this process that water travels underground for miles, or sometimes much less, before it reaches all, private and public, wells, picking up what we put on the ground as it travels. We also know that we only have the same amount of water we have always had, the earth recycles the water. We have also learned that it is very expensive and difficult to clean up a ground-water source once it is contaminated.

We think that Stewartstown Borough, Hopewell Township and surrounding area is a wonderful place to live, raise a family, and enjoy the beauty of York County. Please help us to protect all, private and public, water resources so that generations to come will enjoy safe, clean drinking water.