

THE SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

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This fact sheet has been prepared for the purpose of public education. For more information on the Source Water Protection Program and its applicability to your facility, please contact the Groundwater Consortium Manager at 513 383-3162.

Why Source Water Protection?

Members of the Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium began working on a joint, multi-jurisdictional Source Water Protection Program in 1990 for a variety of reasons, including the following:

- Source water protection was a mandated requirement for the Cities of Fairfield and Hamilton.
- The increasing number of costly contamination cases in southwest Ohio. These costly clean-ups can drive up water production costs.
- The area's reliance on ground water to meet 100% of residential, commercial, and industrial water needs.
- Fewer alternatives for drilling new wells due to development and other siting restrictions within favorable production areas. Emphasized the need to ensure future reliability of existing wells.

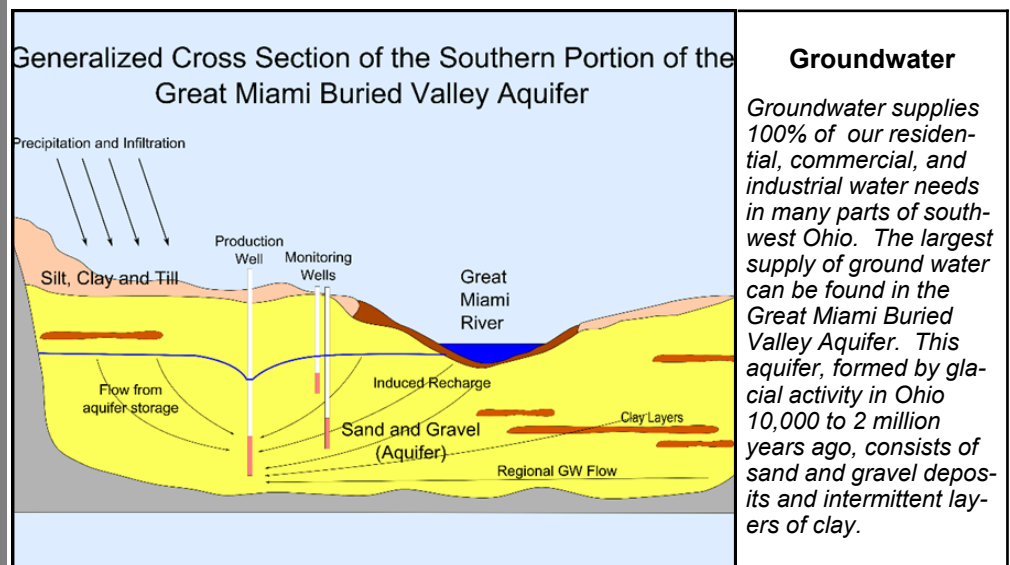
What is the Source Water Protection Program?

The Source Water Protection Program (SWPP) is a groundwater protection program designed to prevent pollution of groundwater used for drinking water. The program was mandated to the State level as part of the 1986 Safe Drinking Water Act amendments. The State of Ohio requires local development of a SWPP as a condition for permitting new public water supply wells.

The SWPP consists of seven phases:

1. Delineation of the Source Water Protection Area. Identifies areas contributing water to the water supply over defined time frames, called time-of-travel zones (TOTs);
2. Source Inventory. Conduct an inventory of potential pollution sources in the Source Water Protection Area;
3. Management Planning. Develop protective management strategies to reduce the potential for pollution within the Source Water Protection Area;
4. Contingency Planning. Response planning for hazardous materials releases in your Source Water Protection Area;
5. Groundwater Monitoring Plan. Assess the need for a groundwater monitoring program and implement if required;
6. Public Education; and outreach, such as water festivals and presentations;
7. Alternate Water Supply Planning.

Each phase must be endorsed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to be considered complete.



Who is the Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium?

The Consortium consists of seven independent public and industrial groundwater suppliers and users in the Hamilton to New Baltimore area of southern Butler and northern Hamilton Counties. These are:

- City of Hamilton
- Greater Cincinnati Water Works
- City of Fairfield
- Southwest Regional Water District
- Southwestern Ohio Water Company
- Molson Coors Beverage Company
- Butler County Water & Sewer

What is Being Done Locally for Source Water Protection?

The Consortium is implementing a variety of Source Water Protection Program-related activities. This includes installation and sampling of groundwater monitoring wells to measure groundwater quality, development of public education materials, maintenance of a Consortium groundwater web site (www.gwconsortium.org), school and civic group presentations, and administration of a locally developed source water protection ordinance.

How Do I Know if the Source Water Protection Ordinance Applies to My Facility?

There are several criteria that must be met for a facility to be regulated under the SWPP ordinance. The following questions provide a general guide for determining if the SWPP applies to your facility. Please contact the Groundwater Consortium Manager for a final determination.

1. *Are you located in the Source Water Protection Area?* This is the most important question. If your facility lies outside the boundaries of the Source Water Protection Area, the program does not apply to you regardless of the types or quantities of regulated materials you use.
2. *Do you use or store any of the following general categories of materials?* Inclusion in this list does not automatically mean the material is regulated under the SWPP.
 - Petroleum or petroleum-based products;
 - Antifreeze, transmission fluids, or other auto-related items;
 - Chemicals, solvents, industrial and commer-

cial cleaning supplies, sanitizers, disinfectants, bactericides, or algacides;

- Inks, organic pigments;
- Non-latex paints, primers, thinners, and waste products; and/or
- Pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers.

3. *Do you use or store these materials in amounts meeting or exceeding the following quantity thresholds?*

- In the 1 and 5 year TOT – In amounts exceeding 55 gallons or 440 pounds total for bulk storage. For regulated pre-packaged consumer products, in amounts exceeding 500 gallons or 4,000 pounds.
- In the 10 year TOT – In amounts meeting or exceeding 1,000 gallons (8,000 pounds) total for aboveground bulk storage, or 500 gallons total for underground storage. For regulated pre-packaged consumer products, in amounts exceeding 1,000 gallons.

If you meet these criteria, the SWPP *may* apply to your facility. Please contact the Groundwater Consortium Manager at **513-383-3162**, for more information about the SWPP and its applicability to your facility.

Source Water Protection Areas for the Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium

The Source Water Protection Area includes a 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year time-of-travel (TOT) management zone. The TOTs identify where groundwater contributing to the water supply will travel within the next 1, 5, and 10 years.

