



Keeping Connecticut Healthy
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FACT SHEET



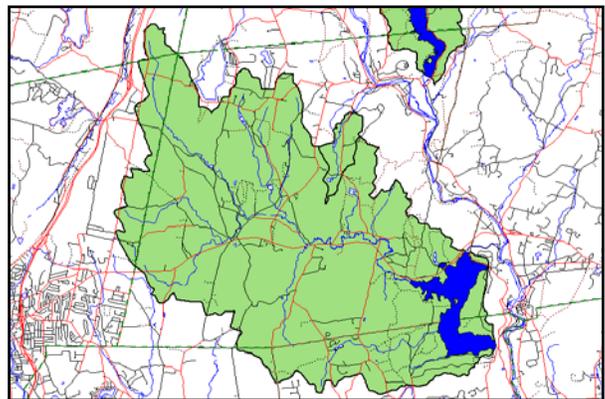
Information About Connecticut's Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP)

The Source Water Assessment Program or SWAP is part of the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The program calls for the assessment and protection of all public drinking water supply sources throughout the United States. Here in Connecticut, the Department of Public Health (DPH) is responsible for developing and implementing the state's SWAP. DPH, working in partnership with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), is making every effort to ensure that the state's program is tailored to conditions and needs specific to Connecticut's drinking water sources. The DPH will produce and issue its assessment reports to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by May 2003 following a workplan approved by EPA in November 1999.

The goal of Connecticut's SWAP is to evaluate the susceptibility of all public drinking water supply sources, including surface water reservoirs and ground water supply wells, to potential contamination. This effort will cover all active community and non-community public water supply sources that include over 3,400 public water supply systems, with over 4,500 sources of supply. The foundation of Connecticut's SWAP is its existing programs and data as administered and overseen by the DPH and the DEP. The DPH will work with communities, public water suppliers, other state agencies and the EPA to ensure the success of Connecticut's Source Water Assessment Program. Completion of an assessment report for each public water supply source is a critical step in ensuring the protection of the state's public drinking water supplies.

Connecticut's Source Water Assessment Program consists of four main elements:

- (a) Delineating source water protection areas for each public drinking water source.
- (b) Inventorying significant potential contaminant sources within the delineated areas of each public water supply source.
- (c) Assessing the relative susceptibility of each public drinking water source using three key indicators: (i) source sensitivity to certain contaminants, (ii) source vulnerability to land use and development, and (iii) the need for additional source protection measures. The overall susceptibility of each source will be ranked based upon the above three factors.
- (d) Public participation and input in SWAP via numerous ongoing or planned outreach activities.



Example of a Watershed and Reservoir

For more details about Connecticut's SWAP program visit the Connecticut DPH website at <http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/DWD> or one of several EPA sites devoted to SWAP at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/protect/assessment.html>.

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