



WELLHEAD PROTECTION NEW WELL REQUIREMENTS



Under the wellhead protection rule, there are two special requirements for municipal water suppliers adding a new well to their systems:

- Municipal water suppliers must submit, with the well construction plan, a preliminary wellhead protection area delineation and an assessment of land uses for the proposed new well (part 4720.5130, subparts 1 and 2).
- Vulnerable municipal water suppliers are automatically phased into the wellhead protection program at the time the new well is connected to their water supply system (part 4720.5130, subpart 3).

Preliminary Wellhead Protection Area Delineation and Assessment

Construction plans for new municipal wells must include:

- A map (1:24,000 scale or greater detail) showing the boundaries of the preliminary wellhead protection area for the proposed well.
- An assessment of the impacts that existing land use and water use in this area may have on the aquifer serving the proposed well.

The purposes for these requirements are to 1) give municipal water suppliers a sense of the potential size and location of the recharge area for a proposed municipal well, and 2) evaluate the suitability of proposed well locations with respect to land use activities within the preliminary wellhead protection area.

The Minnesota Department of Health has prepared a worksheet providing step-by-step instructions for delineating preliminary wellhead protection areas. However, any delineation method may be used as long as it is technically sound and incorporates the following criteria:

- A minimum ten-year time of travel;
- The projected annual demand to be met by the well (i.e., well discharge); and
- For unconfined aquifers, the preliminary delineation must also take into account the local direction of groundwater flow.

It is important to remember that the preliminary wellhead protection area delineation is less accurate relative to the final delineation because it is a fairly simple approach requiring fewer technical criteria.

If you have any questions regarding the wellhead protection rule requirements for new municipal wells, please contact Steve Robertson at 651-201-4648.

If you would like more information or would like to obtain this brochure in another format, please contact:

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