

TOPIC: WELLFIELD PROTECTION AREAS

Overview

Drinking water traditionally comes from one of two primary sources. The first source is surface water like rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. The other primary source is groundwater. When a community public water system uses groundwater, they drill collection wells. The areas around these collection wells are designated as Wellfield Protection Areas. The Safe Drinking Water Act formally requires states to develop Wellhead Protection programs. In Indiana, IDEM's Office of Water Quality administers the Wellhead Protection Program (327 IAC 8-4.1). Through these programs, businesses and residents are educated about chemical spill prevention. Programs can also involve inspecting and regulating facilities that use, store, or handle hazardous materials in an effort to protect the water resource.

Impacts on Our Water

In Indiana, ground water supplies approximately 60% of the public's drinking water. Wellfield protection programs work to prevent groundwater contamination. Recent events in Charleston WV, Toledo OH, and Flint MI show the importance of a safe drinking water system.

More Information

<http://marionhealth.org/wellfield/>

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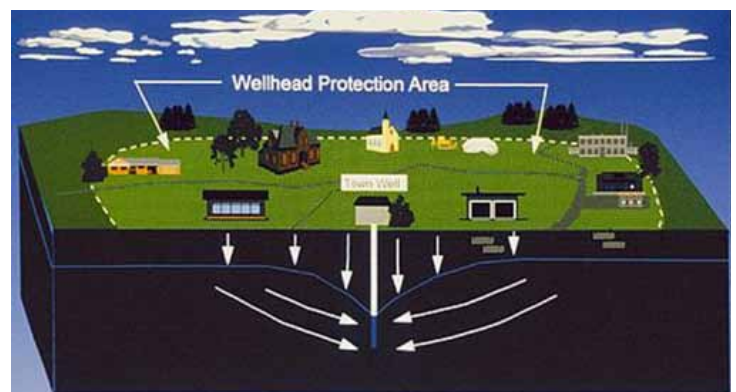
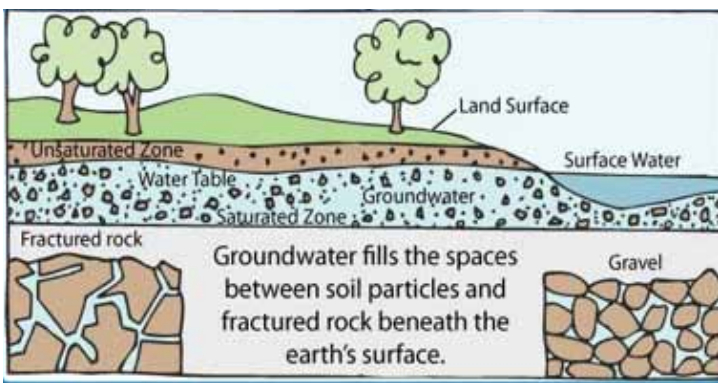


Illustration of Wellhead Protection Area