SOURCE WATER PROTECTION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SWPTAP)

Local source water protection (SWP) programs are community-based voluntary efforts to protect drinking water sources used by community water systems. Local SWP programs are effective tools for public health protection, water supply security and managing operational and capital costs through improved or maintained source water quality. The Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program (SWPTAP) can help develop and establish local SWP programs.

WHAT IS PROVIDED BY SWPTAP?

DEP has secured the services of a contractor to provide technical expertise and assistance to interested community water systems for the development of local SWP programs. SWP programs can involve wellhead protection for groundwater sources, watershed protection for surface water sources or both for systems using both groundwater and surface water.

Community water systems receiving services through the Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program must establish local SWP programs through a steering committee that will develop a source water protection plan detailing a program that meets DEP's minimum elements (see box). Assistance can be provided for developing a complete program or just specific elements needed to complete a program.

The SWP plan should incorporate:

- Public education;
- Program promotion;
- Support for pollution prevention methods;
- Integration with land-use planning; and
- Restoration and/or conservation of the source water protection area.

The SWP plan should include a strategy addressing both existing sources of contamination and potential sources of future contamination identified in the Source Water Assessment. The strategy can include the use of other funding sources and existing grants. Applicants eligible for SWPTAP include a community water system (CWS), an individual municipality with a community water system, or a group of adjacent municipalities.

The minimum elements of a local source water protection program include:

- Local steering committee and public participation;

- Source water protection area delineation;

- Contaminant source inventory;

- Source water protection area management methods and commitment;

- Contingency planning; and

- Protection of identified new source sites.

HOW WILL PROJECTS BE SELECTED FOR ASSISTANCE?

DEP Source Water Protection staff in conjunction with the contractor will assist the community water system in developing a Scope of Work.

DEP will consider the following criteria when developing and reviewing proposals:

- How well does the project adhere to DEP's minimum requirements for a SWP plan?
- What is the likelihood of successful completion within the projected time frame?
- Does the project have a clear source water protection focus?
- Does the water supplier and/or local government(s) demonstrate a commitment to develop, implement, support and sustain a local SWP program after funding is received?

FACT SHEET

- Will all of the components of a local SWP program be in place at completion?

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Interested parties should complete and submit a SWPTAP Information Request Form.

The form and information for this program can be obtained by:

- Visiting the DEP Web site at www.depweb.state.pa.us, keyword: Source Water and Groundwater Protection.
- Contacting the appropriate DEP Regional Office; or
- Contacting the DEP Source Protection Section at 717.772.4048.

SWPTAP requests for enrollment in the program may be submitted to DEP at any time. There is no application period or closing date.

SWPTAP Information Request Forms must be sent to:

PA DEP
Bureau of Watershed Management
Source Protection Section
Rachel Carson State Office Building, 10th Floor
400 Market Street
PO Box 8555
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8555
Telephone: 717.772.4048

Assistance will be provided following completion of the Information Request Form. DEP will review the form and initiate a scoping meeting with the CWS and the contractor to determine what is needed and who will be responsible for each task. A formal Scope of Work (workplan, budget and schedule) is developed and approved by all parties. With DEP oversight, the contractor will assist the CWS in developing the SWP plan. The final SWP plan is then submitted to the DEP regional office for review and approval.

Before completing the request form, note the following:

- Table 1 of this fact sheet lists a summary of the requirements for SWPTAP. Read the summary to verify that your project meets these requirements;
- Construction, including buildings, building materials and fencing, is not an eligible category for SWPTAP. Lighting fixtures/standards, telemetry equipment and computers are also not allowed. Land acquisition and activities related to permitting/regulatory requirements for community water system wells are also not eligible for funding under the Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program.

For more information, visit www.depweb.state.pa.us, keyword: Source Water and Groundwater Protection.

Table 1. - SOURCE WATER PROTECTION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SUMMARY

Characteristic	Explanation
Eligible Applicants	Municipality with a community water system, group of adjacent municipalities, community water system
Project Duration	No more than 2 years
Types of Projects	- Rigorous wellhead protection area delineation - Enhanced contaminant source inventories - SWP area management or planning (ordinance development, transfer of development rights, early warning monitoring systems, public education activities, road signs, emergency response plan enhancements/contingency planning)
Sources	All active permitted sources must be included in the SWP program
Allowable Costs	- Professional services not obtainable through voluntary personal, regular organizational staff or this program - Materials and supplies necessary for program development
Final Product	"Approvable" local SWP plan (describes local SWP program that meets DEP Minimum Elements for Local SWP Programs)