The Wellhead Word

Spring 2010

Protecting Groundwater Supplies Through Wellhead Protection

Taking a Look Back as We Move Ahead

The DEQ has strived to develop a successful Wellhead Protection Program for Oklahoma to educate citizens and ensure a safe drinking water source for generations to come. Since we are embarking on a new year we would like to take at look back at what we have accomplished and evaluate if we are meeting the needs of Oklahoma's citizens. Instead of our regular quarterly newsletter we have developed the following survey to assist us with our assessment. Please take a minute to complete this survey and return it to the address below:

Groundwater Protection Team
ECLS/ODEQ
P.O. Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101

Or if you prefer to complete the survey online, please go to:
http://www.deq.state.ok.us/eclsnew/wellheadprotection/index.htm

Wellhead Protection Survey: Education/Outreach/Community

As highlighted in previous issues of the Wellhead Word, the incidents of Lone Grove, Locust Grove and Windmill Run have emphasized the importance of Wellhead Protection. Over the years, it has become more and more apparent that threats to our drinking water are no longer a situation of "IF" but rather "WHEN." The more prepared a community is, the better the outcome. When faced with an emergency, a contingency plan can be the strongest tool in a community's arsenal.

This survey focuses primarily on contingency plans. We want to know if your community's contingency plan provides instructions for how to react to various types of emergencies. The results of this survey will help us develop better templates for communities to utilize, gain a better understanding of the threats to our states drinking water supplies and determine what topics our outreach material should focus on. Wellhead Protection is a voluntary program and we appreciate the assistance you provide in helping to ensure that all of Oklahoma's citizens have safe drinking water.

Of the potential contaminant sources that lie within your protection area (the 10-year time of travel), please list the ones you consider to be genuine threats to your drinking water.

- ☐ Nutrient/pesticide runoff from farms and/or lawns
- ☐ Industrial or commercial facilities
- ☐ Septic systems or leaking sanitary lines
- ☐ Abandoned wells
- ☐ Roads and highways
- ☐ CAFO's
- ☐ Underground/Above Ground Storage Tanks
- ☐ Other (Please describe)

_____

Has a Wellhead Protection Program been established in your community? ◯ Yes ◯ No

Does your system have a contingency plan? ◯ Yes ◯ No

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Does your system have a contingency plan that provides specific instructions for chemical spills within the Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA)?

◯ Yes ◯ No

Does your contingency plan provide specific plans for providing drinking water during short-term and/or permanent loss of a water source?

◯ Yes ◯ No

Does your contingency plan contain an emergency sampling plan for parameters of potential concern if you become aware of a problem in your WHPA?

◯ Yes ◯ No

When was your system's contingency plan last updated? _____

Have you created local financing to help implement protective activities that involve a significant cost to your facility?

◯ Yes ◯ No

If yes, please describe. _____

Are you providing educational materials to owners of wastewater treatment systems/or septic systems within your WHPA to encourage correct operation and maintenance of these systems?

◯ Yes ◯ No

If yes, are you utilizing...

☐ Materials developed by DEQ ☐ Materials you developed ☐ Other

If you are utilizing materials developed by DEQ, what materials have you found helpful?

☐ Newsletters ☐ Bill inserts ☐ Fact sheets

What do you perceive as the major barrier/obstacle to implementing a wellhead protection program in your community if it hasn't done so?

☐ Lack of available funding ☐ Lack of personnel resources ☐ Lack of technical assistance

☐ Lack of information ☐ Local politics ☐ Lack of community involvement

☐ Other (Please describe) _____

What do you perceive as your greatest success in your community's source water protection program?

_____

Go Green!

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OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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