



Fact Sheet

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Department of Environmental Protection

NEW WELL PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS

On Oct. 8, 1994, new Safe Drinking Water Regulations were published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. The changes include information and requirements needed to permit a groundwater source for certain public water systems. The regulations also modified the definition of "wellhead protection area" and provided the necessary elements for approval of voluntary local wellhead protection programs.

Wellhead Protection Areas

The definition of wellhead protection area (WHPA) establishes three possible zones of protection. Zone I is the immediate area surrounding the well which may range from a radius of 100 to 400 feet depending on the pumping rate of the well and the type of aquifer the well is pumping from. Zone II is a radius of 1/2 mile, unless a more detailed delineation is established to identify the surface area overlying the portion of the aquifer through which water is diverted to a well (capture zone) or flows to a spring or infiltration gallery. Zone III is an area which contributes surface water or groundwater to Zone II which may be significant to protecting the wellhead protection area.

New Permitting Information

For a construction permit, the information to be submitted in the hydrogeologic report for a well, spring or infiltration gallery, has been more clearly specified in the description of the geology and the source aquifer. This information includes a more detailed aquifer test and water level maps. These requirements can be reduced for sources yielding fewer than 100,000 gallons per day. Zone I is the only WHPA that is required to be delineated for the permit. A compliance assistance document is available for Zone I determinations. Based on existing data, most wells will have a Zone I of 200 feet or less. In addition, the regulations require the submitting geologist to be in compliance with the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law.

WHPA Zone I Requirements

All construction permit applications accepted after Oct. 9, 1995, for a new or expanding community water system must show that the water supplier has ownership of, or substantially controls by a deed restriction or other acceptable means, the WHPA Zone I. This is to allow the water supplier to prohibit activities within Zone I that could have an adverse impact on source water quality or quantity.

The water supplier must not allow the storage, use or disposal of any potential contaminant within the WHPA Zone I except for chemicals used in the production or treatment of the drinking water.

Liquid fossil fuel storage is not allowed in the WHPA Zone I except for emergency power and heat for the water system and only where gas is not available. In these instances, the liquid fossil fuel must be carefully contained above ground.

Voluntary Local Wellhead Protection

A section in the regulations provides the necessary elements for approval of voluntary local wellhead protection (WHP) programs. Local WHP programs will prevent costly contamination of the public drinking water source, protecting public health and safety. In addition, WHP programs will protect investment in the water system, prevent capital investment in drinking water treatment and groundwater cleanup, and protect property values. Technical assistance and support for developing a local WHP program is available from many sources.

DEP Regional Offices

Southeast Region

Lee Park, Suite 6010
555 N. Lane
Conshohocken, PA 19428
610-832-6059

Counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia

Southwest Region

400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745
412-442-4217

Counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland

Southcentral Region

909 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110
717-705-4708

Counties: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry and York

Northcentral Region

208 W. Third Street, Suite 101
Williamsport, PA 17701
570-327-3675

Counties: Bradford, Cameron, Clearfield, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga and Union

Northeast Region

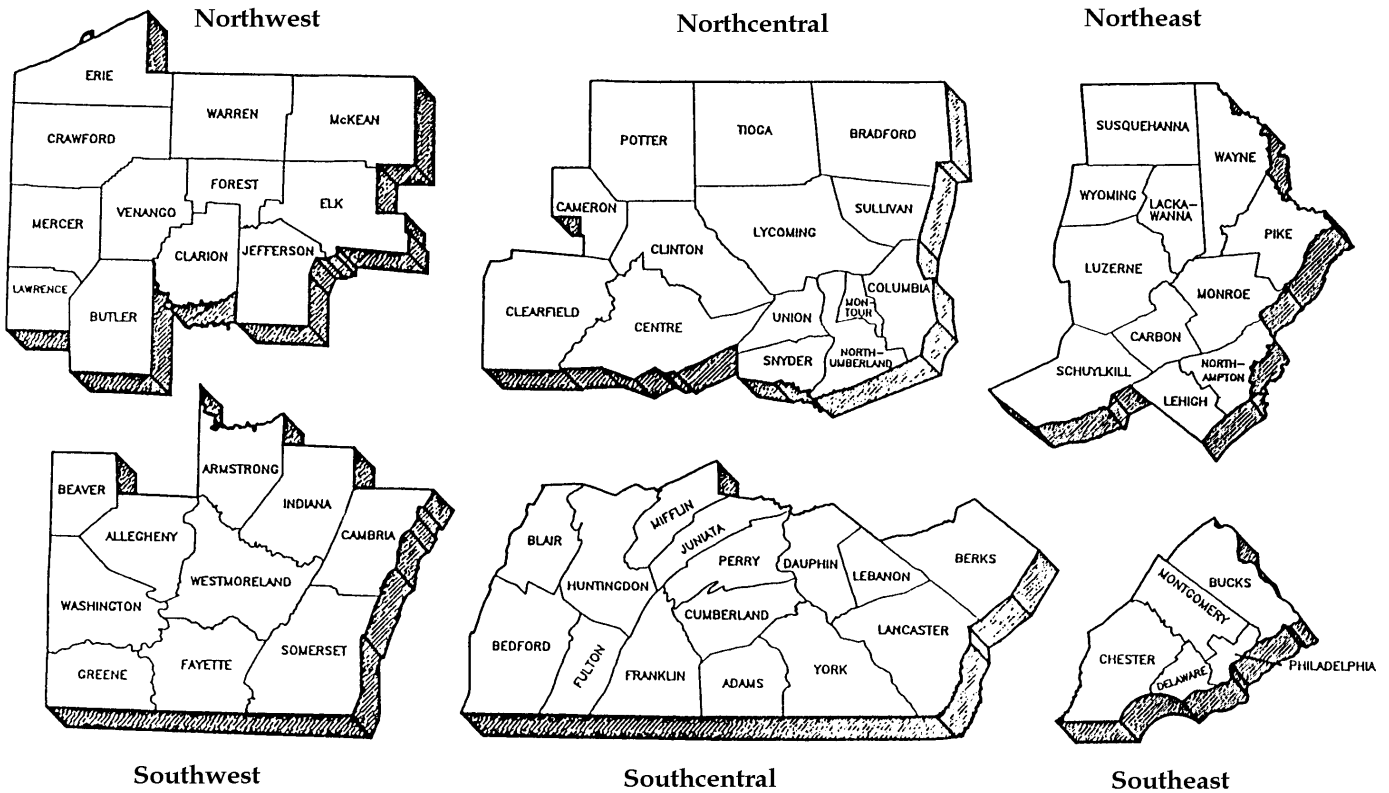
2 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790
570-826-2511

Counties: Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne & Wyoming

Northwest Region

230 Chestnut Street
Meadeville, PA 16335-3481
814-332-6899

Counties: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren



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