

Protect your water supply

*An early warning system is one of the most effective ways to protect your community's high quality sources of drinking water....*

*... get involved in protecting your local water supply NOW!!!*



*The PAWS Partnership is a program of the PA Rural Water Association. A non-profit Association of water and wastewater systems in Pennsylvania—dedicated to protecting our water supplies for now and the future.*

c/o PRWA - Source Water Protection  
138 West Bishop Street  
Belleville, PA 16823

**P.A.W.S. Partnership**

**DRAFT**

"the Water Watchdogs"

## *P.A.W.S. Partnership*

*Guide for residents and businesses*



P.A.W.S.  
Partnership



## Water Supply Protection

Poll after Poll shows that Americans are very concerned about the quality and safety of their drinking water. Ask any water supplier and they'll agree that protection of the raw water—ground or surface—is utmost important in keeping treatment costs down and maintaining quality sources for future generations. Amazingly, less than 20% of all public water supplies in the U.S. have watershed or wellhead protection programs in effect.



Wellhead Protection Area Map

The most effective source water protection programs have a strong public involvement component. By getting involved and learning what to look for near your water sources, you can minimize risks and help your water supplier more effectively manage emergency situations. You are the first line of defense against accidental or intentional contamination events.

### *P.A.W.S.—Protecting America's Water Supplies*

PAWS is a partnership program between the local water supply and the residents and businesses with buildings in the watershed or wellhead area providing the local drinking water supply. These "Water Watchdogs" act as early warning signal of activities or accidents that could affect the raw water quality. The PAWS Partners are provided training and contact information for local law enforcement, emergency management agency and water supplier if they notice anything suspicious or potentially damaging to the water supply.

### *Getting Started*

The PAWS Partnership can be implemented in many ways and should be tailored to fit the needs of the local community. If you live near the local water supply and want to get involved, these basic steps should be followed:

- 1) Call your local water supplier and attend the next meeting to find out what they are doing to protect the local water supply. Offer to assist with organizing your neighbors in a P.A.W.S. program.
- 2) Ask your water supplier to identify the watershed and/or wellhead contribution areas to all the communities' water sources. This information may be available from the state Safe Drinking Water Act primacy agency in your state. After September 2003, your water supplier should also have the results of the Source Water Assessment and Protection program (SWAP), which includes maps of these contribution areas.
- 3) Assist your water supplier in identifying the homeowners and businesses that are located in the source water contribution area. In larger watersheds, identify those people located within 5 miles upstream
- 4) Offer to act as chairperson for initial and annual meetings. Obtain and review the guidance material from PA Rural Water Association.
- 5) Invite all identified residents to a public meeting to show maps of the source water contribution area and explain the program. Provide contact numbers for reporting activities or incidents. Set up the Partnership in your community.

## Information Request Form

Use this form to request more information on the P.A.W.S. Partnership Program. PAWS is 100% voluntary and there is no obligation by completing and returning this form. Information is also available at [www.pawspartners.org](http://www.pawspartners.org) or [www.waterwatchdogs.org](http://www.waterwatchdogs.org)

Representing:

- Individual or Business  
 Public Water Supply  
 Other (please, explain)

Does your water supply have a source water protection plan?

- Yes  
 No  
 Not sure

Level of Interest

- High  
 Medium  
 Low

Type of Local Water Supply

- Surface (river, lake)  
 Ground (well, spring)  
 Both  
 Not sure

Name of local water company: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments or Questions:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

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