

The Wellhead

Word

May 2008

Protecting Groundwater Supplies Through Wellhead Protection

Case Study of Best Management Practices

A small town of 420 in Grant County, Wakita depends on a field of three wells southwest of town for its water supply. In the past few years, the water being produced by the wells began containing excessive levels of nitrate, a chemical constituent that would be costly to treat and remove from the water. An investigation into the cause of the situation indicated that the nitrate contamination was due to fertilizer application on the wheat crop being grown around the well. The town took action by establishing a wellhead protection area and by purchasing the 160 acre tract of land where the wells were located. The land purchase allowed the town to limit the amount of fertilizer that could be applied to crops in the area. The net result has been a steady drop in nitrate levels in the town's drinking water. To help further protect Wakita's water

supply, the town has notified citizens, surrounding land owners, area businesses, and the owners and operators of a nearby oil well of their source water protection plan and have asked for their cooperation in protecting Wakita's wells.

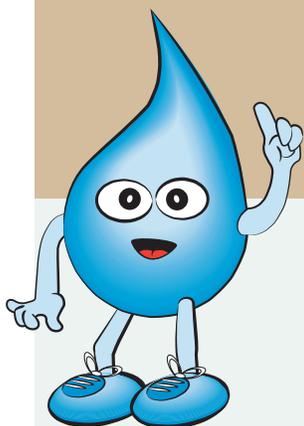
The success of Wakita's source water protection plan is an example of how effective wellhead protection can be. The plan's effectiveness lies in its structure; it is an organizational structure that is centered around protecting groundwater quality. The plan enhances awareness of water quality issues, promotes accountability for actions that impact the aquifer, and creates a culture of collaboration among everyone depending on or living around Wakita's wells. It is a recipe for success.



Signs have been placed along roadways at the edge of Wakita's wellhead protection area.

Who Can I Contact for More Information about BMP's?

- Your local DEQ office.
- Oklahoma City Groundwater Support.



H2O Joe says contact your local DEQ office for copies of:

- The Wellhead Word Newsletter
- Fact Sheets
- Bill inserts

Next Issue: Spotlight on Education

Utilize your community's resources to get the word out on protecting source water. Mobilize the efforts of your local organizations such as, the Boy Scouts, School Organizations, and Social Clubs. Work to inform your friends and neighbors about the importance of wellhead protection and about what you can do as a community to identify potential contaminates.

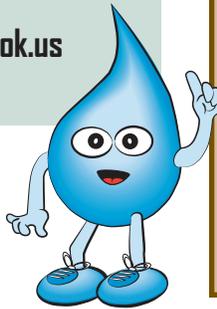


Environmental Complaints and Local Services Wellhead Protection Contacts

For more information about the Wellhead Protection Program contact your local DEQ office or Oklahoma City Groundwater Support Unit.

Groundwater Support
Oklahoma City:
(405) 702-6100
Matt Pace
Amber McIntyre
Lynne Moss

Web Site
www.deq.state.ok.us



Local Offices

Ada.....(580) 332-3157	Miami.....(918) 540-0150
Alva.....(580) 327-2649	Oklahoma City.....(405) 702-6100
Ardmore.....(580) 226-2554	Ponca City.....(580) 762-1907
Bartlesville.....(918) 333-2734	Poteau.....(918) 647-5734
Burns Flat.....(580) 562-4394	Purcell.....(405) 527-8738
Chouteau.....(918) 476-8588	Tulsa.....(918) 293-1600
Claremore.....(918) 341-7179	Sallisaw.....(918) 790-2498
Duncan.....(580) 255-6068	Shawnee.....(405) 275-7967
Durant.....(580) 920-2037	Stillwater.....(405) 372-7387
Enid.....(580) 234-0997	Tahlequah.....(918) 456-5714
Guymon.....(580) 338-1357	Valliant.....(580) 933-5566
Henryetta.....(918) 652-0446	Wagoner.....(918) 485-8873
Jay.....(918) 253-4656	Wheatland.....(405) 745-7120
Lawton.....(580) 357-9733	Wilburton.....(918) 465-5218
McAlester.....(918) 423-3482	Woodward.....(580) 256-0641



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