Nevada Integrated SourceWater Protection Program

Fact Sheet

What is source water protection and why is it important?

Source water includes bodies of water such as lakes, springs, streams, rivers and wells that become our water supply. Preventing water supply contamination up front lessens associated health issues, the high costs of water treatment and source water development.

Protecting public drinking water supplies at the source and managing land uses and human-caused sources of contamination are the keys to preventing pollution *before* it enters our drinking water supply.

What is the Integrated Source Water Protection Program (ISWPP)?

ISWPP is a comprehensive, voluntary approach designed to help communities develop and implement a plan that protects their drinking water supplies with an emphasis on ground water resources. Through the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), ISWPP helps communities protect their drinking water.

NDEP encourages, motivates and supports local source water protection activities; manages, shares and integrates source water protection information; develops federal, state and local source water protection partnerships; and integrates and implements source water protection at the state level.

How does ISWPP work?

NDEP has eliminated the need for local community contract administration by contracting directly with a technical assistance provider to assist in every aspect of source water protection planning and implementation. NDEP coordinates Source Water Protection (SWP) with other government agencies for maximum protection of Nevada's water resources. NDEP may also assist communities in creating a public outreach plan that meets each community's needs, and by providing guidance on how to implement that plan.

A community approach

We've taken a community approach, for the benefit of individual and surrounding communities. Each community will be able to consider what works best for them. This approach gives water systems an opportunity to participate. Each county will also have the opportunity to take a leading role with the flexibility of allowing for individual public water systems to operate independently where sensitive relationships impact local decision making. This approach will ensure the most efficient use of limited state resources.

What do communities need to do?

With the assistance of the technical provider, communities will identify sensitive drinking water protection areas and activities that could contaminate ground water in these areas. Communities will also set SWP goals, procure resources and develop and implement a source water protection plan.

Applying ISWPP Statewide

Ultimately, NDEP's goal is to include all public water systems in the planning process. In order to successfully implement this goal, NDEP may take a broader county planning approach in which all of Nevada's 17 counties will have an opportunity to participate in the program and benefit from dedicated resources. Ideally, every county will be reached within a 10-12 year program planning horizon.

Source water protection in Nevada is dynamic and is considered in virtually all of NDEP's water related programs. NDEP has numerous programs established under the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act. These programs serve to protect surface and ground waters throughout the State. In addition to these programs, NDEP also provides assistance for and encourages communities to develop and implement local Community Source Water Protection Plans.

For a complete list of programs please visit **www.ndep.nv.gov**.

For more information please contact:
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