Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Report
for

Northfield Water District

What is SWAP?

The Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), established under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, requires every state to:

- inventory land uses within the recharge areas of all public water supply sources;
- assess the susceptibility of drinking water sources to contamination from these land uses; and
- publicize the results to provide support for improved protection.

Susceptibility and Water Quality

Susceptibility is a measure of a water supply's potential to become contaminated due to land uses and activities within its recharge area.

A source's susceptibility to contamination does *not* imply poor water quality.

Water suppliers protect drinking water by monitoring for more than 100 chemicals, disinfecting, filtering, or treating water supplies, and using source protection measures to ensure that safe water is delivered to the tap.

Actual water quality is best reflected by the results of regular water tests. To learn more about your water quality, refer to your water supplier's annual Consumer Confidence Reports.

Table 1: Public Water System Information

PWS Name	Northfield Water District
PWS Address	22 Strowbridge Road
City/Town	Northfield
PWS ID Number	1217000
Local Contact	Steven Malsch
Phone Number	413-498-4342

Introduction

We are all concerned about the quality of the water we drink. Drinking water wells may be threatened by many potential contaminant sources, including storm runoff, road salting, and improper disposal of hazardous materials. Citizens and local officials can work together to better protect these drinking water sources.

Purpose of this report:
This report is a planning tool to support local and state efforts to improve water supply protection. By identifying land uses within water supply protection areas that may be potential sources of contamination, the assessment helps focus protection efforts on appropriate best management practices (BMPs) and drinking water source protection measures.

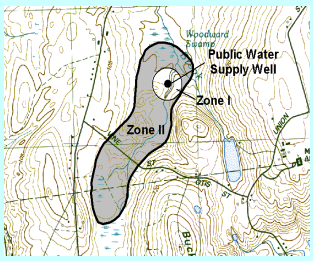
Refer to Table 3 for Recommendations to address potential sources of contamination. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff are available to provide information about funding and other resources that may be available to your community.

This report includes the following sections:

1. Description of the Water System
2. Land Uses within Protection Areas
3. Source Water Protection Conclusions and Recommendations
4. Appendices

What is a Protection Area?

A well's water supply protection area is the land around the well where protection activities should be focused. Each well has a Zone I protective radius and a Zone II protection area.



Glossary

Aquifer: An underground water-bearing layer of permeable material that will yield water in a usable quantity to a well.

Hydrogeologic Barrier: An underground layer of impermeable material (i.e. clay) that resists penetration by water.

Recharge Area: The surface area that contributes water to a well.

Zone I: The area closest to a well; a 100 to 400 foot radius proportional to the well's pumping rate. This area should be owned or controlled by the water supplier and limited to water supply activities.

Zone II: The primary recharge area for the aquifer. This area is defined by hydrogeologic studies that must be approved by DEP. Refer to the attached map to determine the land within your Zone II.

Section 1: Description of the Water System

Zone II #: 449 ***Susceptibility:*** High

Well Names	***Source IDs***
Well #1	1217000-01G

The Town of Northfield is a primarily agricultural and rural community in Western Massachusetts along the Vermont border. The Connecticut River bisects the northern half of the town and forms the western border of the southern half of Northfield. The Connecticut River valley is relatively narrow through this area and the remainder of the town is hilly terrain. There is one well serving the Northfield Water District, located along the Mill River off of Strowbridge Road. The well is a gravel developed well located in an unconfined narrow bedrock valley buried within glacially deposited sand and gravel. There is no evidence of a confining (protective) clay layer in the vicinity of the well. Wells located in an unconfined aquifer are considered to have a high vulnerability to potential contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers (i.e. clay) that can prevent contaminant migration into the aquifer from the surface. The well has a Zone I protective radius of 400 feet based on an approved withdrawal rate. The Zone II, recharge area for the well was delineated as part of the SWAP program utilizing empirical data developed during an extended duration pumping test, analytical modeling and hydrogeological mapping. The District does not own the entire Zone I. Please refer to the attached map to view the boundaries of the Zone I and Zone II.

The surficial deposits at the site are mapped as alluvial fan sand and gravel deposits. Surficial features surrounding the site are mapped as glacial outwash deposits of sand, gravel and silt. There is little information about the construction of the well but it is believed to be an 8-inch diameter gravel developed well, approximately 57 feet deep. The bedrock geology at the well site is mapped as a fine-grained amphibolite with interbeds of light-green epidote of the Crag Mountain Formation. The area to the northeast of the well is mapped as thick-bedded greywacke or quartz schist. There are two major faults mapped in the area, the eastern Connecticut border fault and the Mill Brook Fault to the south.

Sodium hydroxide is added to the water prior to distribution to adjust the pH of the water for corrosion control. For current information on monitoring results and treatment, please contact the Public Water System contact person listed above in Table 1 for a copy of the most recent Consumer Confidence Report.

Section 2: Land Uses in the Protection Areas

The Zone II for Northfield is a mixture of residential, agricultural, and light commercial land uses (refer to attached map for details). Land uses and activities that are potential sources of contamination are listed in Table 2.

Key Land Uses and Protection Issues include:

1. Non-conforming Zone I
2. Residential land uses
3. Transportation corridors
4. Hazardous Materials Storage and Use

5. Comprehensive wellhead protection planning
6. Agricultural Activities

The overall ranking of susceptibility to contamination for the system is high, based on the presence of at least one high threat land use within the water supply protection areas, as seen in Table 2.

1. Non-conforming Zone I – The Zone I for the well is a 400-foot radius around the wellhead. Massachusetts drinking water regulations (310 CMR 22.00 Drinking Water) requires public water suppliers to own the Zone I, or control the Zone I through a conservation restriction. Only water supply activities are allowed in the Zone I. However, many public water supplies were developed prior to the Department's regulations and contain non-water supply activities such as homes and public roads. The District does not own the entire Zone I radius; there are activities such as pasture lands, residences and roads within the Zone I.

Zone I Recommendations:

- ✓ To the extent possible, remove all non-water supply activities from the Zone Is to comply with DEP's Zone I requirements.
- ✓ Use BMPs for the storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials such as water supply chemicals and maintenance chemicals.
- ✓ Do not use or store pesticides, fertilizers or road salt within the Zone I.
- ✓ Keep any new non water supply activities out of the Zone I.
- ✓ Consider entering into an agreement of right-of first refusal for the potential future purchase of the Zone I land or a conservation restriction to control any future activities within the Zone I land.

2. Residential Land Uses – Approximately 29% of the Zone II consists of residential areas. Northfield does not have a public sewer; therefore, all residences are assumed to use septic systems. If managed improperly, activities associated with residential areas can contribute to drinking water contamination. Common potential sources of contamination include:

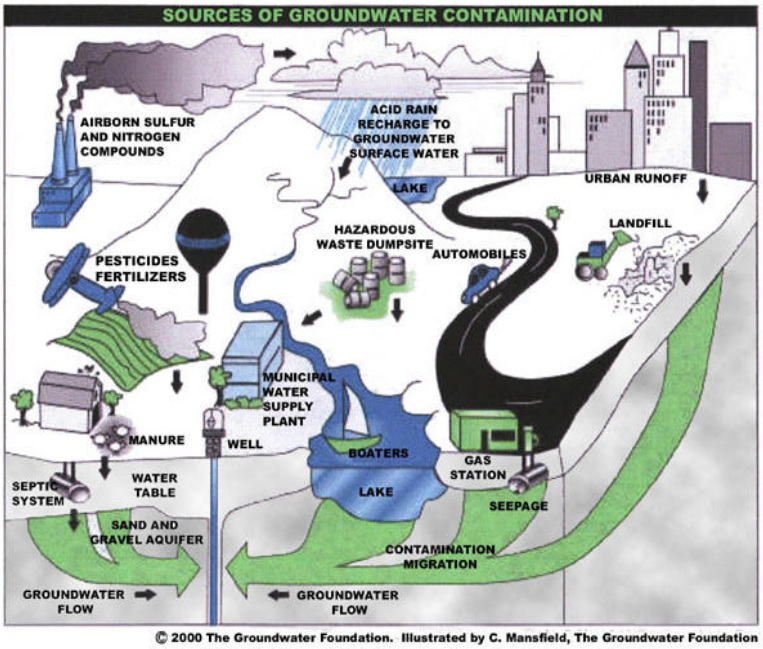
- **Septic Systems** – Improper disposal of household hazardous chemicals to septic systems is a potential source of contamination to the groundwater because septic systems lead to the ground. If septic systems fail or are not properly maintained they can be a potential source of microbial contamination.
- **Household Hazardous Materials** - Hazardous materials may include automotive wastes, paints, solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, and other substances. Improper use, storage, and disposal of chemical products used in homes are potential sources of contamination.
- **Heating Oil Storage** - If managed improperly, Underground and Aboveground Storage Tanks (UST and AST) can be potential sources of contamination due to leaks or spills of the fuel oil they store.

Benefits of Source Protection

Source Protection helps protect public health and is also good for fiscal fitness:

- Protects drinking water quality at the source
- Reduces monitoring costs through the DEP Waiver Program
- Treatment can be reduced or avoided entirely, saving treatment costs
- Prevents costly contamination clean-up
- Preventing contamination saves costs on water purchases, and expensive new source development

Contact your regional DEP office for more information on Source Protection and the Waiver Program.



- **Stormwater** – Catch basins transport stormwater from roadways and adjacent properties to the ground. As flowing stormwater travels, it picks up debris and contaminants from streets and lawns. Common potential contaminants include lawn chemicals, pet waste, and contaminants from automotive leaks, maintenance, washing, or accidents.

Residential Land Use Recommendations:

- ✓ Educate residents on best management practices (BMPs) for protecting water supplies. Distribute the fact sheet "Residents Protect Drinking Water" available in Appendix A and on www.mass.gov/dep/brp/dws/protect.htm, which provides BMPs for common residential issues.
- ✓ Work with planners to control new residential developments in the water supply protection areas.
- ✓ Promote BMPs for stormwater management and pollution controls.

What are "BMPs?"

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are measures that are used to protect and improve surface water and groundwater quality. BMPs can be structural, such as oil & grease trap catch basins, nonstructural, such as hazardous waste collection days or managerial, such as employee training on proper disposal procedures.

3. Transportation Corridors - Local roads are common throughout the Zone II. Roadway construction, maintenance, and typical highway use can all be potential sources of contamination. Accidents can lead to spills of gasoline and other potentially dangerous transported chemicals. Roadways are frequent sites for illegal dumping of hazardous or other potentially harmful wastes. De-icing salt, automotive chemicals and other debris on roads are picked up by stormwater and wash into catchbasins. Much of the area is not served by stormdrains. However, road runoff should be monitored especially along the Warwick Road that runs alongside the Mill Brook and in the immediate vicinity of the well. It is possible that the Mill Brook contributes water to the aquifer under stressed conditions. Emergency response teams should especially be aware of the well and Zone II location.

Transportation Corridor Recommendations:

- ✓ Identify stormwater drains and the drainage along transportation corridors. Wherever possible, ensure that drains discharge stormwater outside of the Zone II.
- ✓ Work with the Town to consider the drainage patterns in the vicinity of the Zone II and the well.
- ✓ Work with the Town to have catch basins inspected, maintained, and cleaned on a regular schedule. Street sweeping reduces the amount of potential contaminants in runoff.
- ✓ Work with local emergency response teams to ensure that any spills within the Zone II and along the Mill Brook can be effectively contained.
- ✓ If storm drainage maps are available, review the maps with emergency response teams. If maps aren't yet available, work with town officials to investigate mapping options such as the upcoming Phase II Stormwater Rule requiring some communities to complete stormwater mapping.

4. Hazardous Materials Storage and Use – Approximately one percent of the land area within the Zone II is designated as commercial land use. An Auction Barn is located in this area. As an auction facility, it is unknown if hazardous materials are brought in and stored before auction. Many small businesses and industries use hazardous materials, produce hazardous waste products, and/or store large quantities of hazardous materials in UST/AST. If hazardous materials are improperly stored, used, or disposed, they become potential sources of contamination. Hazardous materials should never be disposed of to a septic system or floor drain leading directly to the ground.

Hazardous Materials Storage and Use Recommendations:

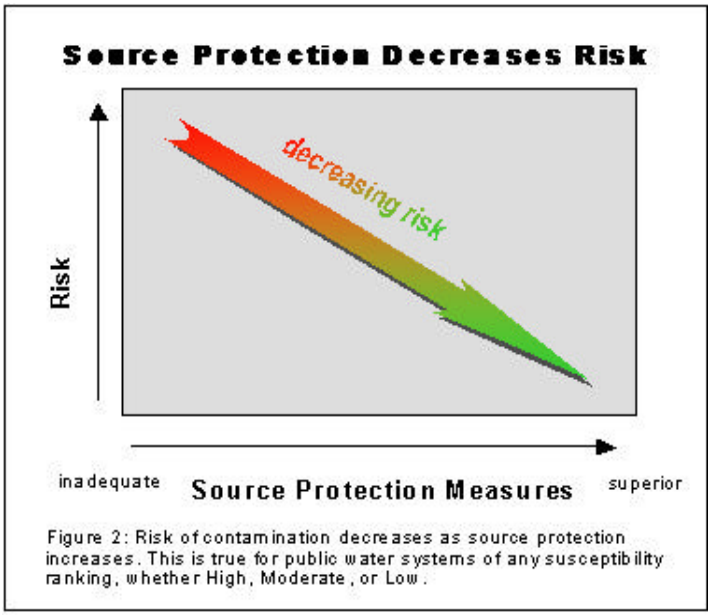


Figure 2: Risk of contamination decreases as source protection increases. This is true for public water systems of any susceptibility ranking, whether High, Moderate, or Low.

Potential Source of Contamination vs. Actual Contamination

The activities listed in Table 2 are those that typically use, produce, or store contaminants of concern, which, if managed improperly, are potential sources of contamination (PSC).

It is important to understand that a release may never occur from the potential source of contamination provided facilities are using best management practices (BMPs). If BMPs are in place, the actual risk may be lower than the threat ranking identified in Table 2. Many potential sources of contamination are regulated at the federal, state and/or local levels, to further reduce the risk.

Table 2: Land Use in the Protection Areas (Zones I and II)

For more information, refer to Appendix B: Regulated Facilities within the Water Supply Protection Area

Land Uses	Quantity	Threat	Potential Contaminant Sources*
Agricultural			
Livestock Operations	1	M	Manure (microbial contaminants): improper handling
Pesticide Storage or Use	1	H	Pesticides: leaks, spills, improper handling, or over-application
Residential			
Fuel Oil Storage (at residences)	Numerous	M	Fuel oil: spills, leaks, or improper handling
Lawn Care / Gardening	Numerous	M	Pesticides: over-application or improper storage and disposal
Septic Systems / Cesspools	Numerous	M	Hazardous chemicals: microbial contaminants, and improper disposal
Miscellaneous			
Aboveground Storage Tanks	Numerous	M	Materials stored in tanks: spills, leaks, or improper handling (residential)
Transportation Corridors	Numerous	M	Fuels and other hazardous materials: accidental leaks or spills; pesticides: over-application or improper handling
Utility Substation Transformers	1	L	Chemicals and other materials including PCBs: spills, leaks, or improper handling

Notes:

1. When specific potential contaminants are not known, typical potential contaminants or activities for that type of land use are listed. Facilities within the watershed may not contain all of these potential contaminant sources, may contain other potential contaminant sources, or may use Best Management Practices to prevent contaminants from reaching drinking water supplies.
2. For more information on regulated facilities, refer to Appendix B: Regulated Facilities within the Water Supply Protection Area information about these potential sources of contamination.
3. For information about Oil or Hazardous Materials Sites in your protection areas, refer to Appendix C: Tier Classified Oil and/or Hazardous Material Sites.

*** THREAT RANKING** - The rankings (high, moderate or low) represent the relative threat of each land use compared to other PSCs. The ranking of a particular PSC is based on a number of factors, including: the type and quantity of chemicals typically used or generated by the PSC; the characteristics of the contaminants (such as toxicity, environ-

- ✓ Educate local businesses on best management practices for protecting water supplies. Distribute the fact sheet "Businesses Protect Drinking Water" available in Appendix A and on www.mass.gov/dep/brp/dws/protect.htm, which provides BMP's for common business issues.
- ✓ Work with local businesses to register those facilities that are unregistered generators of hazardous waste or waste oil. Partnerships between businesses, water suppliers, and communities enhance successful public drinking water protection practices.
- ✓ Educate local businesses on Massachusetts floordrain requirements. See brochure "Industrial Floor Drains" for more information.

5. Protection Planning – Currently, the Town does not have water supply protection controls that meet DEP's Wellhead Protection regulations 310 CMR 22.21(2). Protection planning protects drinking water by managing the land area that supplies water to a well. A Wellhead Protection Plan coordinates community efforts, identifies protection strategies, establishes a timeframe for implementation, and provides a forum for public participation. Northfield has a protection plan in place, but it needs updates to fully comply with DEP's regulations. There are resources available to help communities develop a plan for protecting drinking water supply wells.

Protection Planning Recommendations:

- ✓ Refer to the recommendations included in the Zone II report. Encourage the Planning Board to adopt these recommendations and contact the Department for any assistance they may require.
- ✓ Update current Wellhead Protection Plan. Establish a protection team, and refer them to http://mass.gov/dep/brp/dws/protect.htm for a copy of DEP's guidance, "Developing a Local Wellhead Protection Plan".
- ✓ Coordinate efforts with local officials to compare local wellhead protection controls with current MA Wellhead Protection Regulations 310 CMR 22.21 (2). If there are no local controls or they do not meet the current regulations, adopt controls that meet 310 CMR 22.21(2). For more information on DEP land use controls see http://mass.gov /dep/brp/dws/protect.htm.
- ✓ If local controls do not regulate floordrains, be sure to include floordrain controls that meet 310 CMR 22.21(2).

Top 5 Reasons to Develop a Local Wellhead Protection Plan

❶ Reduces Risk to Human Health

❷ Cost Effective! Reduces or Eliminates Costs Associated With:

- Increased groundwater monitoring and treatment
- Water supply clean up and remediation
- Replacing a water supply
- Purchasing water

❸ Supports municipal bylaws, making them less likely to be challenged

❹ Ensures clean drinking water supplies for future generations

❺ Enhances real estate values – clean drinking water is a local amenity. A community known for its great drinking water in a place people want to live and businesses want to locate.

6. Agricultural Activites – Croplands and pasture lands make up 38% of the land uses in the Zone II. There are corn and hayfields in the Zone II, in close proximity to the Zone I. Pesticides and fertilizers have the potential to contaminate a drinking water source if improperly stored, applied, or disposed. If not contained or applied properly, animal waste from barnyards, manure pits and field application are potential sources of contamination to ground and surface water.

Agricultural Activities Recommendation:

- ✓ Work with commercial farmers in your protection areas to make them aware of your water supply and to encourage the use of a US Natural Resources Conservation Service farm plan to protect water supplies.
- ✓ Be sure all farmers are aware that they are within your Zone II. The DFA, Pesticide Bureau regulates the use of pesticides within sensitive areas.

Other land uses and activities within the Zone II that are potential sources of contamination are included in Table 2. Identifying potential sources of contamination is an important initial step in protecting your drinking water sources. Further local investigation will provide more in-depth information and may identify new land uses and activities that are potential sources of

contamination. Once potential sources of contamination are identified, specific recommendations like those below should be used to better protect your water supply.

Section 3: Source Water Protection Conclusions and Recommendations

Current Land Uses and Source Protection:
As with many water supply protection areas, the system Zone IIs contain potential sources of contamination. However, source protection measures reduce the risk of actual contamination, as illustrated in Figure 2.

Source Protection Recommendations:
To better protect the sources for the future:

- ✓ Inspect the Zone I regularly, and when feasible, remove any non-water supply activities.
- ✓ Educate residents on ways they can help you to protect drinking water sources.
- ✓ Work with emergency response teams to ensure that they are aware of the stormwater drainage in your Zone II and to cooperate on responding to spills or accidents.
- ✓ Partner with local businesses to ensure the proper storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials.
- ✓ Work with commercial farmers in your protection areas to make them aware of your water supply and to encourage the use of a NRCS farm plan to protect water supplies.
- ✓ Supply BMPS to land owners that are hobby farmers to control, fertilizer, pesticide and manure management.
- ✓ Prepare a Wellhead Protection Plan to evaluate existing threats and address future planning for the Water District and the community.

What is a Zone III?

A Zone III (the secondary recharge area) is the land beyond the Zone II from which surface and ground water drain to the Zone II and is often coincident with a watershed boundary.

The Zone III is defined as a secondary recharge area for one or both of the following reasons:

1. The low permeability of underground water bearing materials in this area significantly reduces the rate of groundwater and potential contaminant flow.

2. The groundwater in this area discharges to a surface water feature such as a river, rather than discharging directly into the aquifer.

➢ Partner with Local Businesses:

Since many businesses and industries, including small businesses, use hazardous materials and produce hazardous waste products, it is essential to educate the business community about drinking water protection. Encouraging partnerships between businesses, water suppliers, and communities will enhance successful public drinking water protection practices.

➢ Provide Outreach to the Community:

Public education and community outreach ensure the long-term protection of drinking water supplies. Awareness often generates community cooperation and support. Residents and business owners are more likely to change their behavior if they know where the wellhead protection recharge area is located; what types of land uses and activities pose threats; and how their efforts can enhance protection.

➢ Plan for the Future:

One of the most effective means of protecting water supplies is planning, such as the adoption of local controls to protect watersheds and ground water. These controls may include health regulations, general ordinances, and zoning bylaws that prohibit potential sources of contamination from wellhead protection areas.

Conclusions:
These recommendations are only part of your ongoing local drinking water source protection. Additional source protection recommendations are listed in Table 3, the Key Issues above and Appendix A.

DEP staff, informational documents, and resources are available to help you build on this SWAP report as you continue to improve drinking water protection in your community. The Department's Wellhead Protection Grant Program and Source Protection Grant Program provide funds to assist public water suppliers in addressing water supply source protection through local projects. Protection recommendations discussed in this document may be eligible for funding

under the Grant Program. Please note: each spring DEP posts a new Request for Response for the grant program (RFR).

Other grants and loans are available through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and other sources. For more information on grants and loans, visit the Bureau of Resource Protection's Municipal Services web site at: http://mass.gov/dep/brp/mf/mfpubs.htm.

The assessment and protection recommendations in this SWAP report are provided as a tool to encourage community discussion, support ongoing source protection efforts, and help set local drinking water protection priorities. Citizens and community officials should use this SWAP report to spur discussion of local drinking water protection measures. The water supplier should supplement this SWAP report with local information on potential sources of contamination and land uses. Local information should be maintained and updated periodically to reflect land use changes in the Zone II. Use this information to set priorities, target inspections, focus education efforts, and to develop a long-term drinking water source protection plan.

Section 4: Appendices

A. Protection Recommendations
B. Additional Documents on Source Protection

Additional Information

To help with source protection efforts, more information is available by request or online at mass.gov/dep/brp/dws including:

1. Water Supply Protection Guidance Materials such as model regulations, Best Management Practice information, and general water supply protection information.
2. MA DEP SWAP Strategy
3. Land Use Pollution Potential Matrix
4. Draft Land/Associated Contaminants Matrix

Contact Catherine V. Skiba in DEP's Springfield Office at (413) 755-2119 for more information and assistance on improving current protection measures.

Copies of this report have been provided to the public water supplier, board of health, and the town.

Table 3: Current Protection and Recommendations

Protection Measures	Status	Recommendations
Zone I		
Does the Public Water Supplier (PWS) own or control the entire Zone I?	**NO**	Consider obtaining conservation restrictions or right of first refusal on land within the Zone I not owned or controlled by the PWS.
Is the Zone I posted with "Public Drinking Water Supply" Signs?	**YES**	Additional economical signs are available from the Northeast Rural Water Association (802) 660-4988.
Is Zone I regularly inspected?	**YES**	Continue daily inspections of drinking water protection areas.
Are water supply-related activities the only activities within the Zone I?	**YES**	Continue monitoring non-water supply activities in Zone Is. Request use of BMPs on pasture land in Zone I.
Municipal Controls (Zoning By laws, Health Regulations, and General Bylaws)		
Does the municipality have Wellhead Protection Controls that meet 310 CMR 22.21(2)?	**NO**	Update the Town's "Aquifer Protection District" bylaw to meet DEP's best efforts for wellhead protection. Refer to recommendations in Zone II report.
Do neighboring communities protect the Zone II areas extending into their communities?	**N/A**	
Planning		
Does the PWS have a Wellhead Protection Plan?	**NO**	Develop a wellhead protection plan. Follow "Developing a Local Wellhead Protection Plan" available at: www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/.
Does the PWS have a formal "Emergency Response Plan" to deal with spills or other emergencies?	**YES**	Augment plan by developing a joint emergency response plan with fire department, Board of Health, DPW, and local and state emergency officials. Coordinate emergency response drills with local teams.
Does the municipality have a wellhead protection committee?	**NO**	Work to establish a committee; include representatives from other water suppliers, citizens' groups, neighboring communities, and the business community.
Does the Board of Health conduct inspections of commercial and industrial activities?	**NO**	For more guidance see "Hazardous Materials Management: A Community's Guide" at www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/files/hazmat.doc
Does the PWS provide wellhead protection education?	**NO**	Aim efforts at commercial, industrial and municipal uses within the Zone II.

APPENDIX C – Table of Tier Classified Oil and/or Hazardous Material Sites within the Water Supply Protection Areas

DEP's datalayer depicting oil and/or hazardous material (OHM) sites is a statewide point data set that contains the approximate location of known sources of contamination that have been both reported and classified under Chapter 21E of the Massachusetts General Laws. Location types presented in the layer include the approximate center of the site, the center of the building on the property where the release occurred, the source of contamination, or the location of an on-site monitoring well. Although this assessment identifies OHM sites near the source of your drinking water, the risks to the source posed by each site may be different. The kind of contaminant and the local geology may have an effect on whether the site poses an actual or potential threat to the source.

The DEP's Chapter 21E program relies on licensed site professionals (LSPs) to oversee cleanups at most sites, while the DEP's Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup (BWSC) program retains oversight at the most serious sites. This privatized program obliges potentially responsible parties and LSPs to comply with DEP regulations (the Massachusetts Contingency Plan – MCP), which require that sites within drinking water source protection areas be cleaned up to drinking water standards.

For more information about the state's OHM site cleanup process to which these sites are subject and how this complements the drinking water protection program, please visit the BWSC web page at http://www.state.ma.us/dep/bwsc. You may obtain site -specific information two ways: by using the BWSC Searchable Sites database at http://:www.state.ma.us/dep/bwsc/sitellst.htm, or you may visit the DEP regional office and review the site file. These files contain more detailed information, including cleanup status, site history, contamination levels, maps, correspondence and investigation reports, however you must call the regional office in order to schedule an appointment to view the file.

The table below contains the list of Tier Classified oil and/or Hazardous Material Release Sites that are located within your drinking water source protection area.

Table 1: Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup Tier Classified Oil and/or Hazardous Material Release Sites (Chapter 21E Sites) - Listed by Release Tracking Number (RTN)

RTN	Release Site Address	Town	Contaminant Type
1-0012353	54 Warwick Avenue	Northfield	Oil

For more location information, please see the attached map. The map lists the release sites by RTN.