



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Report
for
Otis Air National Guard Base

What is SWAP?

The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) program, 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

<i>PWS Name</i>	Otis Air National Guard Base
<i>PWS Address</i>	197 Granville Ave., Bldg. 868
<i>City/Town</i>	Falmouth
<i>PWS ID Number</i>	4096001
<i>Local Contact</i>	Christopher M. Faux, Lt. Col., MAANG, BSC
<i>Phone Number</i>	(508) 968-4844

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.

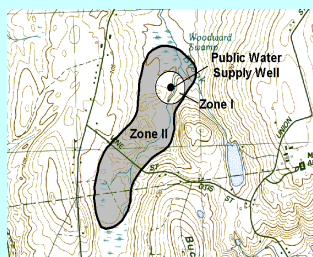
Refer to Table 3 for Recommendations to address potential sources of contamination. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff are available to provide information about funding and other resources that may be available to your community.

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 #: 611

Susceptibility: High

Well Names	Source IDs
Gravel Packed Well J	4096001-01G

Otis Air National Guard Base receives its water from one groundwater source. Gravel Packed Well J is located north of the landing strips and northeast of Herbert Road. The well has a Zone I radius of 400 feet. The well is located in an aquifer with a high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers (i.e. clay) that can prevent contaminant migration. Please refer to the attached map to view the boundaries of the Zone II.

Potassium carbonate is added to the well water for corrosion control, sodium carbonate is added for hardness removal, sodium fluoride is added for fluoridation, sodium hypochlorite is added for disinfection, and granular activated carbon is used to filter out volatile organic carbon contaminants. 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. Drinking water monitoring reporting data are also available on the web at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr1.html>.

Section 2: Land Uses in the Protection Areas

The land uses for the Zone II for Otis Air National Guard Base are predominantly residential and crop land. Land uses and activities that are potential sources of contamination are listed in Table 2.

Key Land Uses and Protection Issues include:

1. Inappropriate activities in Zone I
2. Residential land uses
3. Oil or hazardous material contamination sites
4. Agricultural activities
5. Comprehensive wellhead protection planning

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, with further detail provided in the Table of Regulated Facilities and Table of Underground Storage Tanks in Appendix A..

1. Inappropriate Activities in Zone I – The Zone I for Gravel Packed Well J 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. 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 following non water supply activities occur in the Zone Is of the system wells:

Zone I Activities: Herbert Road runs through the Zone I. Roads are potential sources of contamination due to salting of roadways and leaks or spills of fuels and other hazardous materials during accidents.

Zone I Recommendations:

- ✓ To the extent possible, remove all non water supply activities from the Zone I to comply with DEP's Zone I requirements.
- ✓ Gate the access road to the well and gate or block off any trails in the Zone I that could be used by motor vehicles.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ as water supply chemicals and maintenance chemicals.
- ✓ Wherever possible, ensure that Herbert Road drains discharge stormwater outside of the Zone I.
- ✓ Work with local emergency response teams to ensure that any spills within the Zone I and Zone II can be effectively contained. Review storm drainage maps with emergency response teams.

2. Residential Land Uses – Most of the residential areas within the Zone II do not have public sewers, and therefore 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.
- **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:

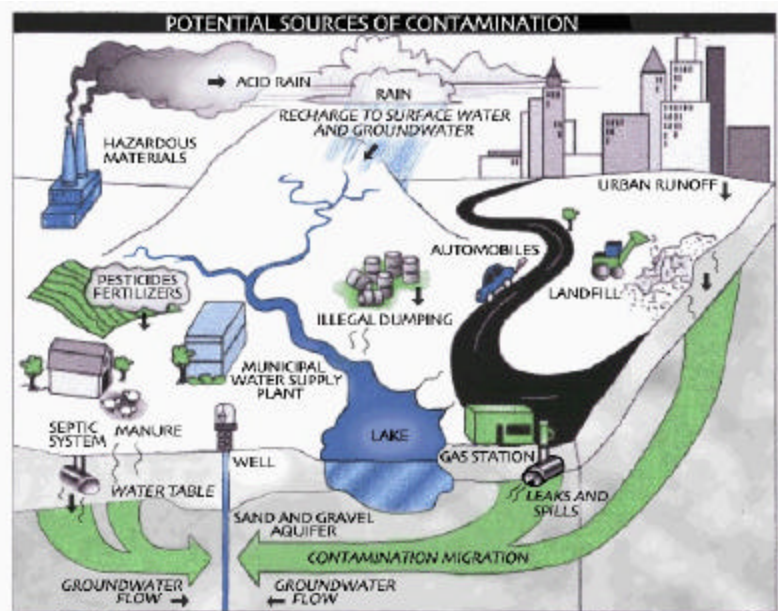
- ✓ Educate residents on best management practices (BMPs) for protecting water supplies. Distribute the fact sheet "Residents Protect Drinking Water" available in Appendix C and on www.mass.gov/dep/brp/dws/protect.htm,

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.



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- ✓ 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. Visit DEP's web site for additional information and assistance at <http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/wm/nonpoint.htm>.

3. Oil or Hazardous Material Contamination Sites – The Zone II for Gravel Packed Well J contains a DEP Tier Classified Oil and/or Hazardous Material Release Site indicated on the map as Release Tracking Number 40015031. Refer to the attached map and Appendix B for more information.

Oil or Hazardous Material Contamination Sites Recommendation:

- ✓ Monitor progress on any ongoing remedial action conducted for the known oil or hazardous material contamination site.

4. Agricultural Activities – There are crop land operations occurring in the Zone II. Pesticides and fertilizers have the potential to contaminate a drinking water source if improperly stored, applied, or disposed.

Agricultural Activities Recommendation:

- ✓ Work with 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.
- ✓ Work with farmers to investigate grants and loans designed to protect surface and groundwater. See <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/pdf/EQIPFct.pdf> for more information on the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Information on the MA Department of Food Agriculture's Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) is available on the web at <http://www.state.ma.us/dfa/programs/aEEP/>.

5. Protection Planning – Currently, the Town of Sandwich has water supply protection controls that meet DEP's Wellhead Protection regulations 310 CMR 22.21(2). The Town of Sandwich has also established a floor drain regulation. However, the Zone II for Otis Air National Guard Base's Gravel Packed Well J is not currently included in Sandwich's Water Resource Districts. 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.

Protection Planning Recommendations:

- ✓ Work with the Town of Sandwich to incorporate the Zone II into the Water Resource Districts.
- ✓ Work with town boards and Otis Air National Guard Base facility planners to review and provide recommendations on proposed

(Continued on page 6)

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.

For More Information

Contact Isabel Collins in DEP's Lakeville Office at (508) 946-2726 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.

Source Protection Decreases Risk

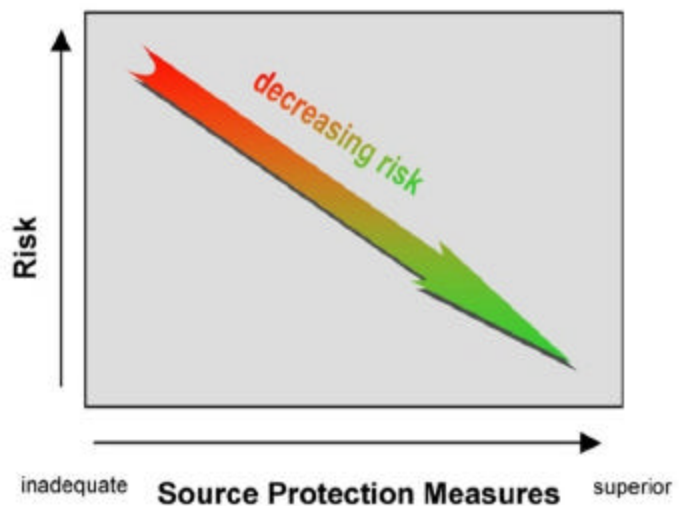


Figure 2: Risk of contamination decreases as source protection increases. This is true for public water systems of any susceptibility ranking, whether High, Moderate, or Low.

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 A: Regulated Facilities within the Water Supply Protection Area

Activities	Quantity	Threat*	Potential Source of Contamination
Agricultural			
Fertilizer Storage or	some	Moderate	Fertilizers: leaks, spills, improper handling, or over-application
Pesticide Storage or Use	some	High	Pesticides: leaks, spills, improper handling, or over-application (cropland)
Residential			
Fuel Oil Storage (at residences)	numerous	Moderate	Fuel oil: spills, leaks, or improper handling
Lawn Care / Gardening	numerous	Moderate	Pesticides: over-application or improper storage and disposal
Septic Systems / Cesspools	numerous	Moderate	Hazardous chemicals: microbial contaminants, and improper disposal
Miscellaneous			
Military Facilities	1	High	Pesticides and herbicides, fuel, chemicals and other materials: spills, leaks, or improper handling or storage; may include ordnance or waste landfill/dump sites
Oil or Hazardous Material Sites	1	-	Tier Classified Oil or Hazardous Materials Sites are not ranked due to their site-specific character. Individual sites are identified in Appendix B

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 A: 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 B: 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, environmental fate and transport); and the behavior and mobility of the pollutants in soils and groundwater.

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development within your water supply protection areas. To obtain information on build-out analyses for the town, see the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs' community preservation web site, <http://commpres.env.state.ma.us/>.

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, Gravel Packed Well J's Zone II contains potential sources of contamination. However, source protection measures reduce the risk of actual contamination, as illustrated in Figure 2. The water supplier is commended for taking an active role in promoting source protection measures in the Water Supply Protection Areas through:

- Posting the Zone I area with signs;
- Having a Wellhead Protection Plan;
- Having a formal Emergency Response Plan; and,
- Providing wellhead protection education to residents.

Source Protection Recommendations:

To better protect the sources for the future:

- ✓ Work with the Town of Sandwich to incorporate the Zone II into the Water Resource Districts.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Monitor progress on any future remedial action conducted for oil or hazardous waste contamination sites.
- ✓ Work with 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.

Conclusions:

These recommendations are only part of your ongoing local drinking water source protection. Additional source protection recommendations are listed in Table 3 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. 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>.

Top 5 Reasons to Develop a Local Wellhead Protection Plan

- ➊ Reduces Risk to Human Health
- ➋ 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
- ➌ Supports municipal bylaws, making them less likely to be challenged
- ➍ Ensures clean drinking water supplies for future generations
- ➎ 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.



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?	YES	Follow Best Management Practices (BMP's) that focus on good housekeeping, spill prevention, and operational practices to reduce the use and release of hazardous materials.
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 routine inspections of drinking water protection areas.
Are water supply-related activities the only activities within the Zone I?	NO	Restrict motor vehicle access to trails within the Zone I. Restrict the use of road salt on the sections of Herbert Road that are within the Zone I.
Municipal Controls (Zoning Bylaws, Health Regulations, and General Bylaws)		
Does the municipality have Wellhead Protection Controls that meet 310 CMR 22.21(2)?	NO	Work with the Town of Sandwich to have the Zone II included in the Town's "Water Resource Districts" .
Planning		
Does the PWS have a Wellhead Protection Plan?	YES	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 Otis Air National Guard Base, local , and state emergency response officials. Coordinate emergency response drills with local teams.
Does the municipality have a wellhead protection committee?	YES	
Does the PWS provide wellhead protection education?	YES	Aim additional efforts at agricultural uses within the Zone II.

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

The land uses within the Zone III are assessed only for sources that are shown to be groundwater under the direct influence of surface water.

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. Regulated Facilities within the Water Supply Protection Area
- B. Table of Tier Classified Oil and/or Hazardous Material Sites within the Water Supply Protection Areas
- C. Additional Documents on Source Protection

Additional Documents:

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

DEP Permitted Facilities:

There are no known DEP Permitted Facilities located within the Zone II.

State Fire Marshall's Listing of Underground Storage Tanks:

No Underground Storage Tanks listed on the State Fire Marshall's database for the Town of Sandwich appear to be located within the Zone II.

APPENDIX B – 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/sitelist.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
4-0015031	Forestdale-Pocasset Road	Bourne	Hazardous Material

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