



Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report For Strawberry Hill Apartments

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.

SWAP and Water Quality

Susceptibility of a drinking water source does *not* imply poor water quality. Actual water quality is best reflected by the results of regular water tests.

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

Prepared by the
Massachusetts Department of
Environmental Protection,
Bureau of Resource Protection,
Drinking Water Program

Date Prepared:
October 18, 2001

Table 1: Public Water System (PWS) Information

PWS NAME	Strawberry Hill Apartments
PWS Address	16 Strawberry Hill Road
City/Town	Acton, Massachusetts
PWS ID Number	2002014
Local Contact	George Keramaris
Phone Number	(781) 894-3952

Well Name	Source ID#	Zone I (in feet)	IWPA (in feet)	Source Susceptibility
Well #1	2002014-01G	280	752	Moderate
Well #2	2002014-02G	280	752	Moderate

Introduction

We are all concerned about the quality of the water we drink. Drinking water wells may be threatened by many potential sources of contamination, including septic systems, 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. 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:

1. Description of the Water System
2. Discussion of Land Uses within Protection Areas
3. Recommendations for Protection
4. Attachments, including a Map of the Protection Areas

1. Description of the Water System

Strawberry Hill Apartments get its water supply from two bedrock wells. Bedrock well #1 is 170 feet deep, and bedrock well #2 is 370 feet deep. Both wells are located east of a driveway that is located behind the building that is directly east of Great Road. Each well has a Zone I of 280 feet and an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA) of 752 feet. The IWPA provides an interim protection area for a water supply well when the actual recharge area has not been delineated. The actual recharge area to the well may be significantly larger or smaller than the IWPA. The well is located in an aquifer with a high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers that can prevent contaminant migration. Please refer to the attached map of the Zone I and IWPA.

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 an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA).

- **The Zone I** is the area that should be owned or controlled by the water supplier and limited to water supply activities.
- **The IWPA** is the larger area that is likely to contribute water to the well.

In many instances the IWPA does not include the entire land area that could contribute water to the well. Therefore, the well may be susceptible to contamination from activities outside of the IWPA that are not identified in this report.

What is Susceptibility?

Susceptibility is a measure of a well's potential to become contaminated due to land uses and activities within the Zone I and Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA).

The well serving the Strawberry Hill Apartments has no treatment at this time. For current information on monitoring results and treatment, and a copy of the most recent Consumer Confidence Report, please contact the Public Water System contact person listed above in Table 1.

2. Discussion of Land Uses in the Protection Areas

There are a number of land uses and activities within the drinking water supply protection areas that are potential sources of contamination.

Key issues include:

1. **Inappropriate Activities in Zone Is;**
2. **Railroad tracks; and**
3. **Septic system.**

The overall ranking of susceptibility to contamination for the well is High, based on the presence of at least one high threat land use or activity in the IWPA, as seen in Table 2.

1. **Zone Is** – Currently, the well does not meet DEP's restrictions, which only allow water supply related activities in Zone Is. The facility's Zone I contains buildings, access roads, and parking areas. The public water supplier does not own and/or control all land encompassed by the Zone I. Please note that systems not meeting DEP Zone I requirements must get DEP approval and address Zone I issues prior to increasing water use or modifying systems.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Remove all non-water supply activities from the Zone I to comply with DEP's Zone I requirements.
 - ✓ Do not use road salt within the Zone I.
2. **Railroad tracks** – Railroad corridors serving passenger and/or freight trains are potential contaminant sources due to chemicals released during normal use, track maintenance, and accidents. Normal maintenance of railroad rights of way can introduce contaminants to a water supply through herbicide application for vegetation control. Accidents can release spills or engine fluids and commercially transported chemical.

Table 2: Table of Activities within the Water Supply Protection Areas

Potential Contaminant Sources	Zone I	IWPA	Threat	Comments
Parking lot, driveways & access roads	Both wells	Both wells	Moderate	Limit road salt usage and provide drainage away from wells
Railroad tracks	No	Both wells	High	Spills of hazardous chemicals; pesticide use for vegetation control.
Septic System	No	Both wells	Moderate	See septic systems brochure in the appendix
Structures	All Wells	All Wells	-	Non-water supply structures in Zone I

* For more information on Contaminants of Concern associated with individual facility types and land uses please see the SWAP Draft Land Use / Associated Contaminants Matrix on DEP's website - www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/.

Glossary

Zone I: The area closest to a well; a 100 to 400 foot radius proportional to the well's pumping rate. To determine your Zone I radius, refer to the attached map.

IWPA: A 400 foot to ½ mile radius around a public water supply well proportional to its pumping rate; the area DEP recommends for protection in the absence of a defined Zone I. To determine IWPA radius, refer to the attached map.

Zone II: The primary recharge area defined by a hydrogeologic study.

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 that resists penetration by water.

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

Recommendation:

- ✓ Contact your local Board of Health to ensure that the IWPA is included in right of way pesticide management planning.
- ✓ Contact the local fire department to ensure that the IWPA is included in Emergency Response Planning

3. **Septic system** – The septic system is pumped annually. If a septic system fails or is not properly maintained it could be a potential source of microbial contamination. Improper disposal of household hazardous chemicals to septic systems is a potential source of contamination to the water supply.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Residents should be instructed on the proper disposal of spent household chemicals. Include custodial staff, groundskeepers, and certified operator.
- ✓ Septic system components should be located, inspected, and maintained on a regular basis. Refer to the appendices for more information regarding septic systems.

Implementing the following recommendations will reduce the system's susceptibility to contamination.

3. Protection Recommendations

Implementing protection measures and best management practices (BMPs) will reduce the wells' susceptibility to contamination. Strawberry Hill Apartments should review and adopt the key recommendations above and the following:

Zone I:

- ✓ Consider well relocation if Zone I threats cannot be mitigated.
- ✓ If it's not feasible to purchase privately owned land within the Zone I at this time, consider a conservation restriction that would prohibit potentially threatening activities or a right of first refusal to purchase the property.

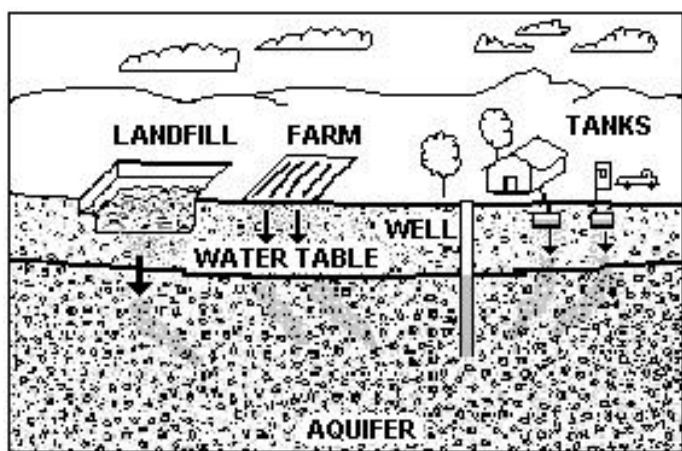


Figure 1: Example of how a well could become contaminated by different land uses and activities.

Training and Education:

- ✓ Train residents on proper hazardous material use, disposal, emergency response, and best management practices; include custodial staff, groundskeepers, and certified operator. Post labels as appropriate on household hazardous materials and hazardous waste.

Facilities Management:

- ✓ Implement standard operating procedures regarding proper storage, use and disposal of household hazardous materials. To learn more, see the hazardous materials guidance manual at www.state.ma.us/dep/bwp/dhm/dhmpubs

Planning:

- ✓ Work with local officials in Acton to include the facility IWPA's in Aquifer Protection District Bylaws and to assist you in improving protection.

For More Information:

Contact **Josephine Yemoh-Ndi** in DEP's **Worcester Office** at **(508) 792-7650 x 5030** for more information and for assistance in improving current protection measures.

More information relating to drinking water and source protection is available on the Drinking Water Program web site at:

www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/

Copies of this assessment have been provided to the public water supplier, town boards, and the local media.

- ✓ Have a plan to address short-term water shortages and long-term water demands. Keep the phone number of a bottled water company readily available.
- ✓ Supplement the SWAP assessment with additional local information and incorporate it into water supply educational efforts. Use a land use inventory to assist in setting priorities, focusing inspections, and creating educational activities.

These recommendations are only part of your ongoing local drinking water source protection. Citizens and community officials should use this SWAP report to spur discussion of local drinking water protection measures.

4. Attachments

- Map of the Public Water Supply (PWS) Protection Area.
- Recommended Source Protection Measures Factsheet
- Your Septic System Brochure

Additional Documents:

To help with source protection efforts, more information is available by request or online at www.state.ma.us/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