

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ONE WINTER STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108 617-292-5500**

ARGEOPAULCELLUCCI
Governor

JANE SWIFT
Lieutenant Governor

BOB DURAND
Secretary

LAUREN A. LISS
Commissioner

Interim Wellhead Protection Area
(Year 2000 Printing)

Effective Date: 4-20-88

Policy, SOP or Guideline # 88-03

Program Applicability:

Supersedes Policy, SOP or Guidance #

Approved by: Patricia L. Deese

This policy is adopted to implement the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering policy statement concerning Wellhead Protection Areas, dated April 4, 1988

Policy

It is the Division's policy to implement fully the Interim Wellhead Protection Area policy of the Department which is attached hereto and made a part of hereof.

Adopted: 4-15-88
Effective: 4-20-88

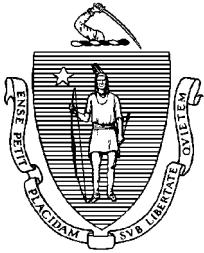
Patricia L. Deese, P.E.
Director
Division of Water Supply

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Division Directors, Office Directors, Regional Directors and Program mangers

FROM: Kenneth A. Hagg, Acting Commissioner

DATE: April 4, 1988

SUBJECT: "Interim Wellhead Protection Area", an area of special protection around public water supply wellheads until Zone II's are delineated.

This Department policy was originally approved on August 27, 1987. The only change is that the area of special protection is now referred to as the "Interim Wellhead Protection Area." The attached Appendix, however, has been revised by the Ground Water Protection Committee. It contains language clarifying how the divisions, regions and programs will carry out the policy and supersedes the original Appendix.

All Department programs are advised to continue implementation of the following policy. Whereas the Department:

- Is committed to the protection and preservation of ground water resources.
- Had determined that the zone of contribution (ZOC), by definition called Zone II in DEQE, is the minimum area requiring particular consideration, and
- Realized that the delineation of the Zone II for all present public supply wells may require many years to accomplish,

The Department, therefore, adopts as an interim area of special protection to public water supplies a radius of one half mile (2640 feet) around the wellhead unless or until a hydrogeological study show the boundaries of the ZOC to be otherwise.

The Department will incorporate this Interim Wellhead Protection Area into all appropriate programs and will encourage municipalities to adopt protective measures for this area in the absence of a delineated Zone III. For implementation of this policy, see attached Appendix.

Approved:

Kenneth A. Hagg, Acting Commissioner

Date

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APPENDIX

Implementation of Interim Wellhead Protection Area Policy.

Division of Water Supply

The Division of already using DWS approved Zone IIs and Interim Wellhead Protection Areas (IWPA) in all programs.

Division of Water Pollution Control

Ch. 21, s 43 – The Groundwater Discharge Permit Program shall substitute a radius of one half mile in place of 2500 feet.

The Division requires more stringent construction standards for sewer lines within a Zone II or an Interim Wellhead Protection Area. (See DEQE Policy for Review of Sewer Line/Water Supply Protection dated 2/2/88).

The NPDES program shall give special attention to any discharges within Zone II or an Interim Wellhead Protection Area.

New wastewater treatment and disposal facilities may be sited within a Zone II or an IWPA provided that a determination has been made and provided such siting is carefully evaluated and provided each facility is appropriately designed, constructed, operated and monitored and necessary conditions and restrictions are imposed to minimize the risk of exceeding the maximum containment limits (MCLs) in the groundwater and at the wellhead. In implementing this policy the Division shall require a comprehensive groundwater monitoring program (including more frequent and more extensive monitoring than would otherwise be required), shall require staff coverage seven days a week and shall consider all input from the Division of Water Supply concerning the water supply, the Zone or the Area.

Division of Solid Waste Management

Ch. 111, s. 150A – Incorporate in regulations no new landfills sited within a Zone II or an Interim Wellhead Protection Area.

Early phase-out of existing landfills in above areas.

Non-disposal facilities (i.e., transfer stations, resource recovery facilities, composing areas and recycling centers) may be sited within a Zone II or an IWPA provided that a determination has been made that the facility cannot be located outside the Zone II or IWPA and provided such siting is carefully evaluated and provided each facility is appropriately sited, designed, constructed and operated and the necessary conditions and restrictions are imposed to minimize the risk of exceeding the maximum contaminant limits (MCLs) at the wellhead. In implementing this policy the Division shall require a comprehensive groundwater monitoring program and shall consider all input from the Division of Water Supply concerning the water supply, the Zone or the Area.

Division of Hazardous Waste

Ch. 21C – The Division will recommend changing the location standard in 310 CMR 30.703(2) to substitute Zone II or IWPA in place of 1000 feet.

Ch. 21C – No new hazardous waste disposal sites will be licensed within a Zone II or an Interim Wellhead Protection Area.

Ch. 21C – Inspect all existing hazardous waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities located within a Zone II or an IWPA for compliance with the regulations at least quarterly. Groundwater monitoring programs may be required.

Ch. 21C – Give priority status to inspect for compliance with the regulations those generators of hazardous waste known to be located within a Zone II or an IWPA.

Ch 21C – Non-disposal, Treatment/Storage Facilities located within a Zone II or an IWPA may be licensed provided that a determination has been made that the facility can not be located outside the Zone II or IWPA, and provided each facility is appropriately designed, constructed, operated and inspected to minimize the risk of the occurrence of a release of hazardous waste to the environment. In implementing this policy the Division shall consider additional groundwater protection monitoring and technology and input from the Division of Water Supply concerning the water supply, the Zone of the Area.

Ch. 21E – Give priority status in clean-up efforts to spills and other releases within a Zone II or IWPA.

Ch. 21E – Source removal and the treatment/removal of any surrounding contaminated soil or water shall be the preferred clean-up alternative if such soils or waters have, or might potentially have, an impact on a Zone II or an IWPA.

Division of Wetlands and Waterways Regulation

Ch. 131 s. 40 – Give special attention to the water quality from any retention ponds or discharges (either to the ground or to surface water) within Zone IIs or IWPAs and discharges to surface waters which might be induced into pumping wells at some point downgradient.

All Programs

Watch for opportunities to protect groundwater from the effects of all activities subject to federal, state or local control that may be planned or already occurring within Zone IIs or IWPAs.

Educate and inform local officials to recognize the relationship between land use and water resource quality and encourage municipalities to protect groundwater within Zone IIs and IWPAs and areas with potentially productive aquifers. Encourage local officials and DEQE program managers to use the Wellhead Protection Guide (published by CCAMP) in regulating activities that may threaten the quality of groundwater.