



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Report  
for  
**West Groton Water Supply District**

### What is SWAP?

The Source Water Assessment 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>	West Groton Water Supply District
<i>PWS Address</i>	309 Townsend Road
<i>City/Town</i>	Groton, Massachusetts
<i>PWS ID Number</i>	2115001
<i>Local Contact</i>	Gordon Newell
<i>Phone Number</i>	(978) 448-3711

### 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.

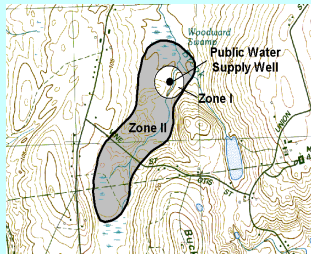
#### **This report includes the following sections:**

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

## Section 1: Description of the Water System

### 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.

**Zone II #: 437**

**Susceptibility: High**

<i>Well Name</i>	<i>Source IDs</i>
Well Tubular wellfield	2115001-01G

West Groton Water District gets its water supply from a tubular wellfield located off Townsend Road. The wellfield consists of forty seven (47) 2.5 inch diameter wells. Each well is approximately 27 feet deep. According to the bedrock geologic map of Groton and surrounding towns, the study area is underlain predominantly by Lower Devonian and Silurian age metasedimentary bedrock of the Merrimack Formation. The bedrock is described as “micaceous ankeritic siltstone-metamorphosed calcareous siltstone” in this area. The Merrimack Formation is a part of the Merrimack Belt, a group of genetically related rocks of Central Massachusetts. The wells are 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.

The water supply is treated with sodium hexametaphosphate 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. Drinking water monitoring reporting data are also available on the web at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/cr1.html>.

## Section 2: Land Uses in the Protection Areas

The Zone II for the West Groton Water Supply District which extends into Shirley, is a mixture of residential and industrial land uses (refer to attached map for details). Land uses and activities that are potential sources of contamination are listed in Table 2, with further detail provided in the Table of Regulated Facilities and Table of Underground Storage Tanks in Appendix B.

### Key Land Uses and Protection Issues include:

1. Inappropriate activities in Zone I;
2. Residential land uses;
3. Transportation Corridor;
4. Hazardous materials storage and use;
5. Oil or hazardous material contamination sites; and
6. 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.

**1. Inappropriate Activities in Zone I** – The Zone I for the wellfield is a 250 foot radius around the perimeter of the wellfield. 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. The

Zone I for the wellfield is not owned or controlled by the public water system. 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 following non water supply activities occur in the Zone Is of the system wells:

**Zone I:** The Zone I for the wellfield has a home and an abandoned railroad track running through it.

**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.
- ✓ 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.

**2. Residential Land Uses** – Approximately 14% of the Zone II consists of residential areas. If managed improperly, activities associated with residential areas can contribute to drinking water contamination. Common potential sources of contamination include:

- **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 A and on [www.mass.gov/dep/brp/dws/protect.htm](http://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.

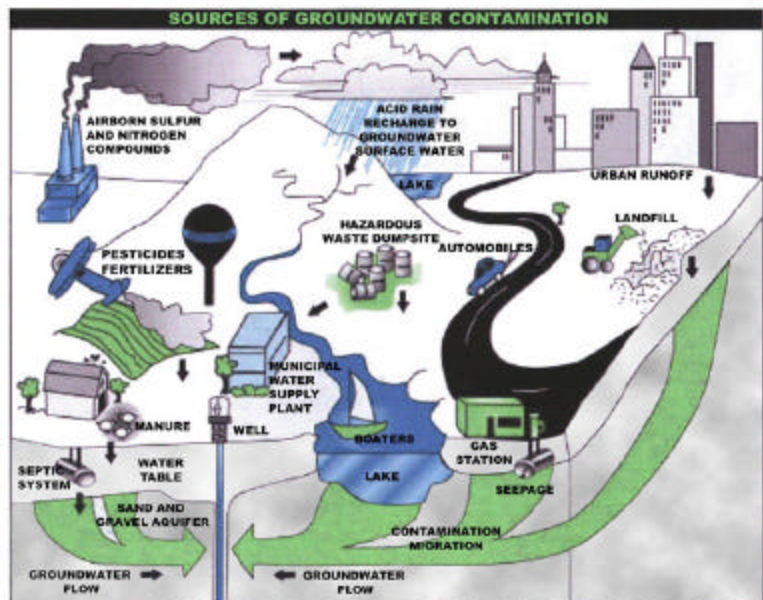
**3. Transportation Corridors** – Townsend Road runs through the Zone II. Other local roads are common throughout the Zone II. Roadway construction, maintenance, and typical highway use can all be potential sources of contamination. Accidents can lead to spills of gasoline and other potentially dangerous transported chemicals. Roadways are frequent sites for illegal dumping of hazardous or other

### 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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potentially harmful wastes. De-icing salt, automotive chemicals and other debris on roads are picked up by stormwater and wash in to catchbasins.

**Transportation Corridor Recommendations:**

- ✓ Identify stormwater drains and the drainage system along transportation corridors. Wherever possible, ensure that drains discharge stormwater outside of the Zone II.
- ✓ Work with the Town and State 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 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.

**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.

**4. Hazardous Materials Storage and Use** – One percent (1%) of the land area within the Zone II is industrial land use. A manufacturer uses hazardous materials, produce hazardous waste products, and/or store large quantities of hazardous materials in a UST/AST within the Zone II. 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:**

- ✓ 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](http://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

**For More Information**

Contact Josephine Yemoh-Ndi in DEP’s Worcester Office at (508) 849-4030 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.

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. There are resources

*(Continued on page 6)*

**Source Protection Decreases Risk**

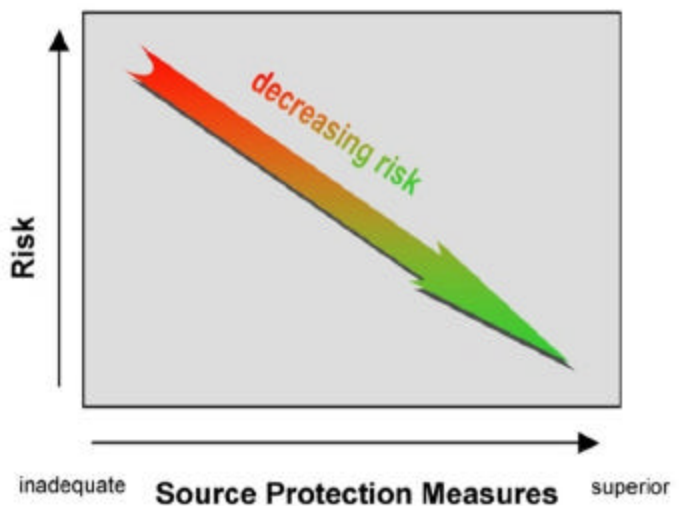


Figure 2: Risk of contamination decreases as source protection increases. This is true for public water systems of any susceptibility ranking, whether High, Moderate, or Low.

### 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 B: Regulated Facilities within the Water Supply Protection Area

Activities	Quantity	Threat*	Potential Source of Contamination
<b>Industrial</b>			
Hazardous Material Storage	One	H	Hazardous materials and waste: spills, leaks, or improper handling or storage
Hazardous Waste Storage & Recycle	One	H	Hazardous materials and waste: spills, leaks, or improper handling or storage
Industrial Park	One	H	Hazardous materials and waste: spills, leaks, or improper handling or storage
Paper Manufacturer	One	H	Hazardous materials and waste: spills, leaks, or improper handling or storage
Aboveground Storage Tank	One	M	10,000 gallon with fuel, in a vault
Large Quantity Generator of Hazardous Waste	One	H	Hazardous materials and waste: spills, leaks or improper handling or storage
Small Quantity Generator of Hazardous Waste	One	L	Hazardous materials and waste: spills, leaks or improper handling or storage
<b>Residential</b>			
Fuel Oil Storage (at residences)	Several	M	Fuel oil: spills, leaks, or improper handling
Lawn Care / Gardening	Several	M	Pesticides: over-application or improper storage and disposal
Septic Systems / Cesspools	Several	M	Hazardous chemicals: microbial contaminants, and improper disposal
Aquatic Wildlife	Two	L	Microbial contaminants
Stormwater Drains/ Retention Basins	Several	L	Debris, pet waste, and chemicals in stormwater from roads, parking lots, and lawns

See Table Notes on Page 6.



**Table 2 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, environmental fate and transport); and the behavior and mobility of the pollutants in soils and groundwater.

available to help communities develop a plan for protecting drinking water supply wells.

**Protection Planning Recommendations:**

- ✓ Develop a 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).
- ✓ Work with neighboring communities to ensure that areas of your Zone II within those towns are protected by their local protection measures to meet 310 CMR 22.21(2).

Other land uses and activities within the Zone II that are potential sources of contamination are included in Table 2. Refer to Appendix B for more information about these land uses. 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 II contains 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:

- ✓ Continue to inspect the Zone I regularly, and when feasible, remove any non-water supply activities.

**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.

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Monitor progress on any ongoing remedial action conducted for the known oil or contamination sites.
- ✓ Develop and implement a Wellhead Protection Plan.

**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

**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.

**Additional Documents:**

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

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. Regulated Facilities within the Water Supply Protection Area
- C. Additional Documents on Source Protection

**Table 3: Current Protection and Recommendations**

<b>Protection Measures</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>Zone I</b>		
Does the Public Water Supplier (PWS) own or control the entire Zone I?	<b>NO</b>	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?	<b>NO</b>	Economical signs are available from the Northeast Rural Water Association (802) 660-4988.
Is Zone I regularly inspected?	<b>YES</b>	Continue daily inspections of drinking water protection areas.
Are water supply -related activities the only activities within the Zone I?	<b>NO</b>	Continue monitoring non-water supply activities in Zone Is. Supplier in process of buying land to meet Zone I requirements.
<b>Municipal Controls</b> (Zoning Bylaws, Health Regulations, and General Bylaws)		
Does the municipality have Wellhead Protection Controls that meet 310 CMR 22.21(2)?	<b>NO</b>	The Town does not have a "Aquifer Protection District" bylaw that meets DEP's regulations. Refer to <a href="http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/">www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/</a> for model bylaws and health regulations, and current regulations.
Do neighboring communities protect the Zone II areas extending into their communities?	<b>YES</b>	Work with neighboring municipalities to include Zone IIs in their wellhead protection controls.
<b>Planning</b>		
Does the PWS have a Wellhead Protection Plan?	<b>NO</b>	Develop a wellhead protection plan. Follow "Developing a Local Wellhead Protection Plan" available at: <a href="http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/">www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/</a> .
Does the PWS have a formal "Emergency Response Plan" to deal with spills or other emergencies?	<b>YES</b>	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?	<b>N/A</b>	It is a Water District.
Does the Board of Health conduct inspections of commercial and industrial activities?	<b>YES</b>	For more guidance see "Hazardous Materials Management: A Community's Guide" at <a href="http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/files/hazmat.doc">www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/files/hazmat.doc</a>
Does the PWS provide wellhead protection education?	<b>YES</b>	Aim additional efforts at commercial, industrial and municipal uses within the Zone II.