

**Please Help Protect Drinking Water**

Dear Homeowner, Resident, or Business Owner:

I would like to ask for your cooperation in helping to ensure safe drinking water for yourself and for the inter-lakes elementary school water system. The inter-lakes elementary school water system participates in a program at the N.H. Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) that requires the water supplier to implement a source protection program to prevent drinking water sources from becoming contaminated. Once a source becomes contaminated, it is very costly and sometimes impossible to correct. Therefore, I am writing to you because your property is located in the Source Water Protection Area (SWPA) for this water system as delineated by the NHDES. The SWPA is the area from which water – and any contaminants – are likely to flow to the water system’s well or surface water source. Furthermore, even if your property is not served by this public water system, the water from the SWPA might flow to your well too.

Certain activities on your property can affect the quality of groundwater. Most people who have septic systems are aware that their septic system discharges to the ground and thus to groundwater. Similarly, any gasoline, motor oil, paint, garden chemicals, lawn chemicals, or other household chemicals that are spilled, sprayed, spread, or dumped onto the ground can make their way into groundwater. Because your property is within the SWPA for a public water system, activities on your property that affect groundwater can also affect the public water supply. And if your property uses an on-site well, your own water supply can be affected.

Fortunately, you can minimize the likelihood of groundwater contamination by following a few simple guidelines. Please take time to review and follow the information on the enclosed pamphlet, and make sure all family members, residents, or employees are aware of them. By following these tips, you can help minimize the potential for contamination of groundwater, your drinking water supply, and the public drinking water supply.

We need your help to protect this valuable source of drinking water. The management and users of this public water supply appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions about this letter, the enclosed pamphlet, or the protection of groundwater and drinking water, please contact me at 603-279-5307. You may also contact the NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau at 603-271-2513 for additional information.

Sincerely,

Inter-Lakes School District Facilities Department

Enclosures