

## **9 WELLHEAD PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES**

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The NNSDWA requires, in part, that before a new or modified public water supply receives NNEPA PWSSP approval:

- ✓ a vulnerability assessment be completed;
- ✓ a wellhead protection area be delineated; and
- ✓ potential sources of contamination of the water bearing zone (aquifer) utilized by the well, spring or wellfield be identified.

As part of the source approval process, the water owner (or purveyor) will be required to delineate a wellhead protection area, using a calculated fixed radius method. The delineation should be computed using the best available data such as an estimated well screen interval and a pumping rate based on the number of connections.

Inventory must then be conducted within the wellhead protection area. The purpose of the inventory is to identify past, present and proposed activities that may pose a threat to the source of supply. The vulnerability of the source water of the proposed new well, along with potentially increased and on-going monitoring requirements, should be weighed against the costs of selecting an alternate well site.

The NNEPA PWSSP may require monitoring and controls if, in the opinion of the Director, a potential risk exists to the water quality of a source. Information generated during the inventory will be used to determine whether additional water quality monitoring is needed.

Also, all new public water wells must be identified with a Tribal Well Identification number and reported to the NNEPA PWSSP.

Once a new source has been approved by the NNEPA PWSSP, the purveyor must develop a complete wellhead protection program as defined in the NNPDWR §1700 - WELLHEAD PROTECTION.