

**Table of  
Source Water Protection Program Activities**

The following table is a **partial listing** of activities performed, coordinated or supported by NHDES' Drinking Water Source Protection Program, other NHDES programs, other state agencies or its partners.

11/27/2018

What do "we" (NHDES, partners) do to protect drinking water?	Description of Activity	References
<b>Measurement (of protections, threats)</b>		
✓ Measure and track source water protection levels for ~700 community water systems	Track protection based on protection criteria (e.g., % of conservation in WHPA)	Internal protocol for measurement of protection level.
✓ Make available <u>historic</u> source water assessments and recommendations for protection	Source Water Assessments summarize vulnerabilities and classify risks based primarily on land use conditions.	See NHDES webpage, <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/dwsap.htm">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/dwsap.htm</a>
✓ Compile and summarize contaminant data for internal reviews/external stakeholders.	Provide GIS or tabular data that show levels/trends for certain contaminants.	Measurement of trends and data to support further analysis is provided on a case-by-case basis.
<b>Delineation of <u>S</u>ource <u>W</u>ater <u>P</u>rotection <u>A</u>reas</b>		
✓ Maintain WHPA/SWPA GIS layers for use with internal and external stakeholders	Updates to GIS water supply layers are done quarterly.	GIS Metadata is available from NHDES.
✓ Require delineations for all new sources via NHDES Community Well Siting Regulations	Community and Non-Community Well siting regulations have delineations estimating contributing areas to the well(s).	Large Production Wells and Wells for Large Community Water System <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-dw302.pdf">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-dw302.pdf</a>
✓ Provide funding to improve delineation as requested through grants	Funding is available through grant funding but typically cannot cover the full cost.	<a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/lswp_grants.htm">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/lswp_grants.htm</a>
✓ Provide access to WHPA/SWPAs GIS mapping via an online NHDES viewer	Source Water Protection Areas (mapping) available online for a variety of permitting and protection uses.	NHDES Online GIS viewer. <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/onestop/gis.htm">https://www.des.nh.gov/onestop/gis.htm</a>

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<b>Land Conservation</b>		
✓ GIS analysis of “High Priority Water Supply Lands” and Favorable Gravel Well Analysis	Identifies land areas of the state that are more important to conserve in order to protect drinking water resources.	Available from NHDES through the GIS viewer.
✓ Conservation Grants - “High Priority Water Supply Lands”	Defined a smaller area of NH as “high priority” to focus conservation resources.	<a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/land_acqui/index.htm">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/land_acqui/index.htm</a>
✓ Outreach and Technical support to conservation organizations	Saving Special Places, SPNHF, LCHIP, etc.	<a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/assist.htm">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/assist.htm</a>
<b>Prevent Contamination</b>		
✓ <u>New</u> wells permitted by NHDES Community and Non-Community Well Siting Programs require certain source water protection measures and/or activities.	Control or limited use within sanitary protective radii; source protection plan requirement and BMP inspection program (large CWSs only); public education requirements	Large Production Wells and Wells for Large Community Water System <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-dw302.pdf">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-dw302.pdf</a>
✓ Chemical Monitoring Waiver Program Requires Source Protection Activities for waiver-eligible sources.	Reduces sampling schedule (cost) in exchange for increasing source protection activities. (e.g., educational mailing and/or PCS BMP inspections within SWPAs.)	Program summary fact sheet: <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/dwgb/documents/dwgb-12-4.pdf">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/dwgb/documents/dwgb-12-4.pdf</a>
✓ NHDES administrative rule, <i>Purity for the Protection of Surface Water Supply Watersheds</i> protect watersheds that recharge surface sources	Regulatory buffers, setbacks, recreational use restrictions per PWS application to the department.	See Env-DW 902, Protection for the Purity of Surface Water Sources of Drinking Water, <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-dw902.pdf">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-dw902.pdf</a>
✓ Drinking Water Source Protection Setbacks within State Administrative Rules	Setbacks from potentially contaminating uses	See the Land Use Setbacks sheet for descriptions.
✓ Groundwater Discharge Permitting and Registration	Ensures treatment/disposal of wastewater onto or into the ground. Eliminate groundwater contamination by improper disposal of waste/wastewater containing solvents, petroleum or other products.	See NHDES webpage, <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/gw_discharge/index.htm">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/gw_discharge/index.htm</a> , or <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-wq402.pdf">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-wq402.pdf</a>

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✓ Groundwater Reclassification Program provides higher level of protection for WHPAs, high-yield aquifers, etc.	Limits high-risk uses in GAA reclassified WHPAs or SWPAs; PCS inventories required, BMP inspections and public education.	Groundwater Reclassification Program <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/reclassification/index.htm">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/reclassification/index.htm</a>
✓ Local zoning guidance and support to adopt codes that protect DW resources	NHDES publishes model language and funds local consideration and adoption of new zoning/land use codes.	104 communities now have GW protection zoning. Online map on <a href="http://www.des.nh.gov">www.des.nh.gov</a> “Dashboard”
✓ Ensure compliance with “best management practices” (BMPs) for commercial use of regulated substances	Best practices defined under Env-Wq 401 apply to thousands of businesses and help to limit releases to the ground or surface water.	Best Management Practices Program page. <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/bmps/index.htm">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/bmps/index.htm</a>
✓ Support local source protection via Source Protection Grant Projects	Planning, Assessment and Implementation projects that protect drinking water resources (\$200,000 per year ~15-20 projects/yr)	Local Source Water Protection Page. <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/lswp_grants.htm">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/lswp_grants.htm</a>
<b>Coordination Across Agencies &amp; DES Programs</b>		
✓ Conduct NHDOT Project Reviews through Intra-Agency Review Process	Comment on DOT projects near PWS sources according to written BMP recommendations	<i>NHDES Recommendations</i> document with NHDOT.
✓ NHDES Alteration of Terrain (AoT) rules protect high value groundwater areas, public and private water sources	AoT permits for large development limit discharge to a stormwater practices and from “high-load” areas (e.g., fueling pad) near PWS sources or in groundwater protection areas as defined in rule.	NHDES Alteration of Terrain Program page: <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/aot/index.htm">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/aot/index.htm</a>
✓ NHDES Hazardous Waste Generator Training Program	Regulated entities’ Hazardous Waste Coordinator (industrial/commercial entity) attending Haz Waste program training also receives an e-summary of Env-Wq 401 BMP requirements for regulated substances.	NHDES Hazardous Waste Compliance Section <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/hwcb/hwcs/index.htm">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/hwcb/hwcs/index.htm</a>
✓ NHDES Limnology & NHDHHS Public Health Labs and EPA	Public Health Lab can test for toxins (anatoxin-a, cylindrospermopsin); NHDES Limnology lab can now perform a modified ELISA method to identify total microcystins and nodularins; developed harmful algal bloom (HAB) response protocol for PWSs.	See sampling and HAB response protocol. <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/documents/cyano-public-water.pdf">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/documents/cyano-public-water.pdf</a>
✓ Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food, Review Ag Special Permits near wells	Review and comment on certain pesticide application permits, track monitoring results; setbacks are in place for PWS sources.	Administrative regulations, see, <a href="http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/state_agencies/pes500.html">http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/state_agencies/pes500.html</a> .

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<b>Training</b>		
✓ Annual Source Protection Conference	Annual Workshop for water operators, municipal officials, and local/regional planners.	See NHDES webpage, <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/workshop.htm">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/workshop.htm</a>
✓ Best Management Practices Training	Train local inspectors to identify non-compliance at PCSs with respect to “regulated substances”	Best Management Practices Program page. <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/bmps/index.htm">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/bmps/index.htm</a>
✓ Cyanobacteria/HAB training	Hold periodic workshops; promote EPA HAB workshops on how to sample for cyanobacteria or its precursors.	See US EPA collaborative effort <a href="https://cyanos.org/">https://cyanos.org/</a>
✓ Assist and support Spill Control and Response exercises and planning	Provide funding and technical assistance to water suppliers and first responders in developing and exercising response plans.	See Fact Sheet WD-DWGB-18-3, <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/dwgb/documents/dwgb-18-3.pdf">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/dwgb/documents/dwgb-18-3.pdf</a>
<b>Preserve Availability</b>		
✓ Large Groundwater Withdrawal Permitting	Regulates any withdrawal equal to or above 57,600 gallons or more of water in any 24-hour period from a well or wells installed after July 1998.	See NHDES webpage, <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/lg_withdrawals/issued_permits.htm">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/lg_withdrawals/issued_permits.htm</a>
✓ Water Conservation Use Registration and Reporting	Requires/encourages community water systems, commercial water users, industrial water users, and institutional water users across the state to develop water conservation plans focused on reducing water losses, water waste, and water use.	See NHDES webpage, <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/water_conservation/index.htm">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/water_conservation/index.htm</a> Water Conservation <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-wq2101.pdf">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-wq2101.pdf</a> Water Use Registration and Reporting <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-wq2102.pdf">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-wq2102.pdf</a>
✓ State/Municipal Restrictions of Lawn Watering During Drought	NHDES worked to modify state law to give municipalities and water systems authority to restrict lawn watering during drought. DES provides assistance and model code language necessary to be adopted by municipalities.	See NHDES’ Drought Management page, <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam/drought/index.htm">https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam/drought/index.htm</a>