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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

CAMDEN'S WATER HISTORY

When was the Village of Camden notified about the need to protect the Village's drinking water wells?

After the aquifer was contaminated from 1987-1990 with nitrates and atrazine, and since that time with volatile organic compounds, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) notified the Village that like many other municipalities across the state, they needed to establish a wellfield protection area. The U.S. EPA and the OEPA both require that cities protect their drinking water supplies, which includes the implementation of a Source Water Protection Plan. As stated by the OEPA, implementation of such a plan "will help protect the Village of Camden's valuable drinking water resources for current and future generations."

The Village did not put in monitoring wells, signage or anything that would be part of such a program.

What is a Source Water Protection Plan (formerly known as Wellhead Protection Program)?

A Source Water Protection Plan, formerly known as the Wellhead Protection Program, consists of a series of components that are designed to protect a community's source of water. In Camden's case, this would be the water that is pumped from their well field.

What was Camden supposed to do as part of their Source Water Protection Plan?

Required elements of a Source Water Protection Plan include:

1. A wellhead protection area delineation in which the area contributing water to the well field within a 5-year period of time is delineated, often times with a computer model.
2. An inventory of potential sources of pollution, both point sources and non-point sources that are located within the wellhead protection area. For example, gas tanks, salt piles, certain agricultural practices, land fill, manufacturing facilities, etc. Land use practices are also reviewed.
3. A susceptibility analysis which looks at the geologic vulnerability of a wellhead protection area to contamination, coupled with the land use practices and potential contaminant sources that are common to that area.
4. A management plan that addresses how to prevent the introduction of contamination to the well field. This can take many forms, but may include zoning, encouragement of best management practices, economic incentives, etc.
5. A contingency plan that addresses what to do in the event of a threat to the well field.
6. A public education and public involvement component. This often entails involving the public in the development of the management plan, posting sign along the boundaries of the Source Water Protection Area, and numerous other public education components.
7. A mechanism for updating the plan as new wells are added or after a mandatory period of time has elapsed.

Did the Village of Camden implement the Plan as requested by OEPA?

No. The Village never identified the locations of Camden's drinking water wells, and no Source Water Protection Program was ever implemented or communicated, making it difficult, if not impossible, for the businesses and citizens of Camden to know exactly how to protect the community's drinking wells.

It is our understanding, however, that in 2002 the Ohio EPA did its own wellhead protection area delineation and an inventory of potential sources of pollution on behalf of the Village when the Village itself did not do the required delineation and inventory.

Will the Village of Camden implement a Source Water Protection Plan now?

The Village of Camden has been required to implement a Source Water Protection Plan for years. Most of the work already has been done for them by the OEPA and by Reynolds, Inc. – and paid for by Rod's companies. However, the Village still has not placed signage identifying the location of Camden's drinking water wells that currently serve Camden, nor has it publicly communicated the location to businesses, farmers and residents.