



## Alaska DEC's Recommendations for General Project Activities Associated With, or Near, a Public Water System Source

The following recommendations are intended to address potential impacts of projects, to be permitted or otherwise, in which planned activities are associated with, or near, a public water system (PWS) source (e.g., water well, spring, surface water intake, etc.). The key aspects of these recommendations are to identify nearby PWS sources, establish appropriate points of contact for the applicant and PWS, and implement best management practices.

### **Authority:**

[18 AAC 80.015](#). Well protection, source water protection, and well decommissioning.

a) A person may not:

- (1) cause pollution or contamination to enter a public water system; or
- (2) create or maintain a condition that has a significant potential to cause or allow the pollution or contamination of a public water system.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1) Identify on a legible map if any part of the project is within a Drinking Water Protection Area (DWPA) for a PWS source. DWPAs can be found using the interactive web map application, "Alaska DEC Drinking Water Protection Areas", located at [Alaska DEC Drinking Water Protection Areas - Overview](#). Links to basic instructions for using this web map can be found on the map description page. If you experience problems accessing the map, please contact the Drinking Water Source Protection group at (907) 269-7549, or [chris.miller@alaska.gov](mailto:chris.miller@alaska.gov).
- 2) Where the project/permit intersects a DWPA, notify the associated PWS contact and provide the following:
  - a) A brief description of the project location and associated activities; and
  - b) Project contact information.

PWS contact information can be obtained using the hyperlink from within the pop-up information for each PWS source in the web map, or directly by using the online application called "Drinking Water Viewer", found at <https://akdwv.gecsws.com/>.

- 3) Within the identified DWPA, control stormwater and wastewater discharge such that it is directed away from the PWS.
- 4) Within the identified DWPA, restrict project/permit activities that could significantly and/or permanently change the natural surface water or groundwater levels of the water sources immediately contributing to the PWS.

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- 5) Within the identified DWPA, implement voluntary best management practices suited to your project where equipment storage, maintenance and operation, or other potential sources of contamination are located to minimize the potential for PWS source contamination.
- 6) Restrict or limit equipment storage, maintenance and operation, and other potential sources of contamination, within the following high-priority DWPA Zones:
  - a) Zone A DWPA (several-months-time-of-travel for contributing groundwater, or 1,000-foot buffer of the contributing surface water body and its immediate tributaries);
  - b) Zone E DWPA (1,000-foot buffer of the contributing surface water body and its immediate tributaries for a source using groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GWUDISW)); or
  - c) Provisional DWPA (1,000-foot radius around a PWS source).
- 7) All non-proprietary data related to the project/permit, including but not limited to, water quality results (field and lab), survey data, water levels, subsurface lithologic descriptions and depth, and groundwater flow direction and gradient information, should be made available to the permitting agency upon request.
  - a) When associated with the development, construction, modification, or operation of a PWS, follow the requirements in DEC Drinking Water regulations 18 AAC 80, <https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/regulations/>.
- 8) Keep a list of PWS contacts and agency spill reporting contacts readily available.
  - a) Immediately notify contacts of any potential contamination event, such as spills or excess erosion.

For information about these recommendations, or about source water protection practices and strategies in Alaska please contact:

Ian Needs, *Hydrologist 3*

DEC Drinking Water Source Protection

E-mail: [ian.needs@alaska.gov](mailto:ian.needs@alaska.gov)

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### Alternate contacts:

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