

Palm Beach County's Wellfield Protection Program has been recognized throughout the state and in many parts of the nation as one of the most comprehensive and innovative groundwater protection programs.

Where Our Drinking Water Originates

Ground water is one of our most valuable natural resources. Most of the drinking water in Palm Beach County comes from ground water withdrawn from the surficial aquifer. This aquifer is just below the ground surface. Wellfields consist of wells which pump water from the aquifer for treatment. The water is eventually distributed to household taps. Because our soils consist primarily of loose, permeable sand and porous limestone, our ground water supply is highly susceptible to contamination from spills of hazardous or toxic materials.

How We Protect Our Drinking Water Supply

The Palm Beach County Unified Land Development Code, Article 14 Chapter B, Wellfield Protection is the regulation that helps protect our precious water supply. It establishes zones of protection around wellfields pumping drinking water from the surficial aquifer. Within these zones of protection, Article 14 Chapter B regulates the use of substances such as

solvents, gasoline, motor oil and pesticides to help prevent contamination of the ground water by these materials. The County's Department of Environmental Resources Management manages and enforces this regulation.

Zones of Influence

Four zones of protection have been mapped around the drinking water wellfields in the County. These zones are called "Zones of Influence" because they depict the areas influenced by the pumping of wells. (See back side.) Ground water within these zones is drawn to the wells and, after treatment, distributed to household taps. The travel time during which the water can potentially be drawn to the wells is an integral factor in classifying zones. Zone 1 defines a 30 day travel time, Zone 2 a 210 day travel time and Zone 3 a 500 day travel time. Zone 4 defines the land area beyond the 500 day travel time contour and the 1 foot drawdown contour.

Businesses Affected

A business located within a wellfield protection zone that stores, uses or sells regulated substances in quantities greater than or equal to 5 gallons of a liquid or 25 pounds of a solid is required to apply for a Wellfield Operating Permit. The application for the permit will specify how the business owner intends to comply with the terms of Article 14 Chapter B. The business owner may decide to reduce the quantities of regulated substances which are used at the facility to below the quantities stated above. By doing so, the business owner would no longer be required to obtain an operating permit. In addition, businesses that apply pesticides in wellfield zones are required to obtain a Permit to Apply Pesticides in Wellfield Zones.



Secondary containment of an above ground diesel tank with piping.

Major Accomplishments of the Wellfield Protection Program

More than 3.5 million gallons of regulated substances and 150 of pollutant storage tanks have been removed or secondarily contained in Zones 1, 2, and 3. Over 1000 businesses hold a wellfield operating permit. If a leak does occur, the regulated material is contained, preventing it from contaminating the soils and groundwater. A total of 33 wellfields, comprised of 513 present and future wells, have been modeled and approved for protection.



Wellfield Protection regulates businesses that store, handle, use or produce chemicals greater than 5 gallons of liquid or 25 pounds of a solid.



Secondary containment of waste oil.

Wellfield Protection Program



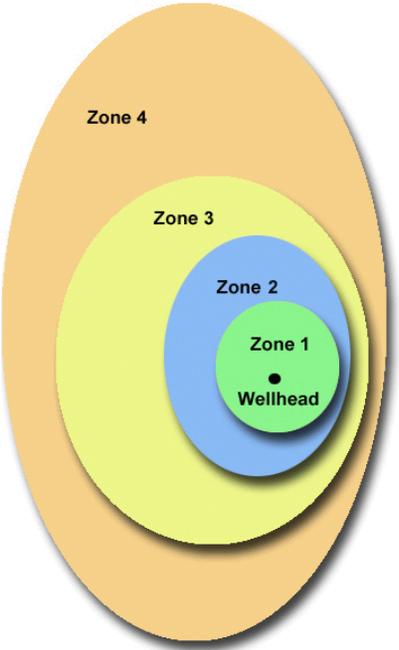
Department of
**Environmental
 Resources
 Management**



Palm Beach County
 Board of County Commissioners

How You Can Help Protect Our Drinking Water Supply

- Take your waste oil to a local waste collection site and take all hazardous waste, such as turpentine, paint thinners and strippers to a proper hazardous waste collection site.
- Contact the Solid Waste Authority (561) 640-4000 for more information on its hazardous waste collection program and waste oil collection sites.
- Contact the police and ERM if you see anyone illegally dumping oil or other hazardous materials.



Wellfield Zones of Influence

Zone	Restrictions
1	No regulated chemicals allowed.
2	Regulations include providing spill containment and clean-up; monitoring groundwater for contamination; \$10,000 surety bond; reporting of spills; inspecting storage containers for leaks.
3	Regulations include: providing spill containment and clean-up; reporting of spills; \$5,000 surety bond; inspecting storage containers for leaks.
4	Regulations include: visual inspections of containers; reporting spills.



For additional information contact:

**Palm Beach County
 Department of
 Environmental Resources
 Management (ERM)
 2300 North Jog Road
 West Palm Beach, FL 33411
 (561) 233-2400**

In accordance with the provisions of ADA, this document may be requested in an alternate format. Contact ERM at (561) 233-2400