

## Contaminant Source Inventory

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One of the major components of a source water protection plan is the contaminant source inventory, which locates the possible sources of contamination to the water source that are located within the source water protection area. The inventory consists of several different sources, including Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) data bases for spill reports and licensed facilities, the oil and gas commission data base of oil wells and underground injection wells and State Fire Marshal records of above and below ground storage tanks for fuel, as well as, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) records of registered wells. In addition to these sources, it is necessary for the system to complete a ground inventory of contaminant sources within the protection area. This inventory will generally be completed by someone familiar with the area who knows where “hidden” sources may be.

In assisting a system in completing a source water protection plan, NeRWA can download the data from NDEQ, DNR, the Fire Marshal and the Oil and Gas Commission and plot these possible sources on a map showing their locations, the source water protection area limits and the municipality’s limits, where applicable. Along with the positions on the map, lists of the type of contaminant, the owner and other information can be retrieved to be used as part of the plan. These may be on a single map or separate maps for the different sources of information.

NeRWA will also be willing to come to the system and complete an on-site contaminant source inventory with the assistance of system personnel. It is important for system personnel to assist in this survey, as it is often necessary to enter private property to get accurate locations for items such as fuel storage tanks, grain storage, chemical storage, etc. Having someone who is known to the property owners can relieve a lot of the problems that could occur. System personnel will also have a better feeling for those residents who would object to having people on their property, and these sources can then be estimated as distances from the road, driveway, etc.

It is also very helpful to have long-time residents assist in the contaminant source inventory, as they will have historical knowledge that can be extremely useful. Abandoned windmills and old farmsteads where chemicals were stored or livestock were fed might no longer be visible, but the location and possible contribution of contamination should be considered. Education of those living or owning property within the protection area is also very useful, so they understand the purpose of the inventory is to locate possible sources of contamination so they can be monitored, and not to infringe upon the owners use of their property.

Having completed a contaminant source inventory will allow the system to investigate ways to manage the sources in order to limit the impact on the drinking water supply beneath them while doing so in a manner that is acceptable to the property owners. There are many sources of funding to assist property owners in removing contamination sources they are no longer actively using, and often the water system will assist in the cost share to keep the financial impact on the owners of the land to a minimum.