



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

An Inventory of Its Drinking Water Protection Program Records

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

Agency:	Minnesota. Dept. of Health.
Series Title:	Drinking Water Protection Program records,
Dates:	1995-1996.
Abstract:	Records of this program which is responsible for regulating Minnesota's public water supply under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, through prevention, treatment, and monitoring.
Quantity:	0.8 cu. ft. (1 box).
Location:	106.D.14.7B

HISTORY OF THE DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

Since 1974, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under the provisions of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, has been responsible for regulating the nation's public water supply systems. However, almost all states, including Minnesota, have assumed responsibility for enforcing the act within their own borders. Minnesota began regulating its public water supply in 1977.

The definition of public water supply system under the federal SDWA is a broad one. To be considered public, a water supply system must provide water to people other than those who own or operate the system, and must also have more than 15 service connections or provide water to more than 25 people.

In the state of Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Health is responsible for enforcing the federal SDWA and safeguarding the quality of drinking water. The Health Department regulates almost 9000 public water supply systems statewide, including over 900 community systems, which provide drinking water to private residences. While the majority of these community systems utilize groundwater, a small number use surface water, drawn from lakes or rivers.

Minnesota's drinking water protection strategy is composed of three major elements: prevention, treatment, and monitoring. Prevention measures protect water quality by controlling potential sources of pollution, regulating land use, and providing advice on water well

construction. Treatment measures, including routine disinfection, are used to make the water palatable and safe to drink. The monitoring process consists of examining community water supply systems for pesticides and industrial contaminants, bacterial contamination, nitrate, inorganic chemicals and radioactive elements, and lead and copper.

In August 1996, the SDWA was reauthorized, significantly strengthening standards for drinking water quality. The reauthorized SDWA updated the standard-setting process for contaminants in drinking water by allowing states to focus their efforts on those contaminants known to pose the greatest public health risk. Planning efforts designed to protect source water, including both surface water and groundwater, from potential contamination were encouraged. The reauthorized SDWA also established the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (DWRFL) to provide financial support for needed improvements in the infrastructure of community drinking water systems and mandated *Consumer Confidence Reports*, annual reports of community water supply systems to their consumers on the quality of their drinking water.

Source: Minnesota Department of Health Web site, August 2000.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

The files include correspondence, reports, meeting minutes, budgets, publications and related materials documenting the health department's activities in implementing this program, particularly as related to the Environmental Quality Board Water Resources Committee, the federal Wellhead Protection program, county groundwater reports, federal Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund support, water management, and wastewater/sewage treatment.

INDEX TERMS

These records are indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

- Drinking water--Law and legislation--Minnesota.
- Drinking water--Minnesota--State supervision.
- Environmental monitoring--Minnesota.
- Federal aid to water quality management--Minnesota.
- Groundwater--Law and legislation--Minnesota.
- Groundwater--Minnesota--Quality.
- Sewage disposal plants--Minnesota.
- Water quality management--Minnesota.
- Wellhead protection--Minnesota.

Organizations:

- Minnesota Environmental Quality Board. Water Resources Committee.
- United States. Safe Drinking Water Act.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited volume and page or item and folder title here]. Minnesota. Dept. of Health. Drinking Water Protection Program records. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.

See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

Accession Information:

Accession number(s): 2001-18

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below. Each file consists of one folder unless specified otherwise.

Location

106.D.14.7B

Subject files, 1995:

American Waterworks Association (AWWA) correspondence, 1995.
Contracts, 1995.

Environmental Quality Board Water Resources Committee
correspondence, meetings, and reports, 1995.

Groundwater plans--County reports, 1995.

Laboratory agreement, 1995.

Lewis and Clark Water System Act of 1995.

Miscellaneous correspondence, 1995.

Public Water Supply, Drinking Water Revolving Fund
correspondence, 1995.

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) correspondence, 1995.

SDWA Program grant, FY1995.

Tritium Contract correspondence, 1995.

Wastewater treatment/sewage treatment correspondence, 1995.

Water Management Plan correspondence, 1995.

Wellhead Protection (WHP) Program grant, FY1995.

WHP correspondence and reports, 1995.

WHP Rule, 1995.

WHP Synoptic Water Levels correspondence and reports, 1995.

Subject files, 1996:

Environmental Quality Board Water Resources Committee
correspondence, reports, and
meetings, 1996.

Groundwater plans--County reports, 1996.

Miscellaneous correspondence, 1996.

SDWA Program grant, FY96.

Tritium Contract correspondence and procedures, 1996.

Water management correspondence, 1996.
Wellhead Protection (WHP) Program grant budgets and reports,
FY1996.

WHP correspondence and phasing lists, 1996.

WHP Rule, 1996.

Publications:

Meeting Minnesota's Water and Wastewater Needs: A Working
Paper by Minnesota Environmental Quality Board Water
Resources Committee, December 1995.

Minnesota Department of Health Website: Selected materials.

Minnesota Superfund Legislative Report: A Report on the Use of the
Minnesota Environmental Response and Liability Act Fund by
MPCA, FY1995.