

Wellhead Protection

The Village of Pewamo relies exclusively on groundwater for its drinking water source. In response to the concern over safety of public water supplies, the Village has instituted a Wellhead Protection Program (WHPP). WHPPs develop long-term strategies aimed at protecting community drinking water supplies. The purpose of developing a WHPP is to identify the Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) and develop long-term strategies aimed at safeguarding the area from contamination. A WHPA is defined as the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a water well or well field, which supplies a public water system, and through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the water well or well field within a 10-year time-of-travel. The State of Michigan requires communities to identify seven elements to be included in the WHPP. These elements along with a brief description are below.

- **Roles and Responsibilities** – Identify individuals responsible for the development, implementation, and long-term maintenance of the local WHPP.
- **WHPA Delineation** – Determine that area which contributes groundwater to the public water supply wells.
- **Contaminant Source Inventory** – Identify known and potential sites of contamination within the WHPA and include in a contaminant source inventory list and map.
- **Management Strategies** – Provide mechanisms which will reduce the risk of existing and potential sources of contamination from reaching the public water supply wells or well field.
- **Contingency Planning** – Develop an effective contingency plan in case of a water supply emergency.
- **Siting of New Wells** – Provide information on existing groundwater availability, the ability of the PWSS to meet present and future demands and the vulnerability of the existing wells to contamination.
- **Public Education and Outreach** – Generate community awareness in the WHPP by focusing on public education and the dissemination of WHPP information.