

ATTACHMENT A

Susceptibility Analysis, Protective Strategies, and Proposed Consumer Confidence Report Language for the Little Hocking Water Association's Wellfield

Susceptibility Analysis:

The aquifer that supplies drinking water to the Little Hocking Water Association's wellfield has a high susceptibility to contamination. This determination was made because of the following reasons:

- < The depth to water in the buried valley aquifer is less than 30 feet below the ground surface;
- < Less than 25 feet of sand, gravel and clay exists between the ground surface and the aquifer, providing minimal protection from contaminants infiltrating from the ground surface to the aquifer; and
- < Potential significant contaminant sources exist within the protection area.

Water quality data collected to meet public water supply requirements provide a direct measurement for the presence of contamination in drinking water. Water quality data were evaluated using the drinking water compliance database and the Ambient ground water monitoring network database at Ohio EPA. The available water quality data do not indicate that contamination has impacted the aquifer. Because the compliance sampling requirements are for treated water, the lack of water quality impacts is not a certain indication of the lack of contamination. This determination is limited by the sampling that is performed for the water system.

The Little Hocking Water Association has identified 41 potential contaminant sources that lie within the determined wellhead/source water protection area for the wellfield, seven of which lie within the inner management zone, or one-year time-of-travel zone. The sources include septic systems, underground storage tanks, a machine shop, roadways and railways.

Consequently, the likelihood that the Little Hocking Water Association's source of drinking water could become contaminated is high. Potential contaminant sources should be handled carefully by implementing appropriate protective strategies.

Protective Strategies:

Protective strategies are activities that help protect a drinking water source from becoming contaminated or further contaminated. Implementing these activities can provide a number of long-term benefits, including protecting the health of the consumers; preserving water resources for future generations; avoiding the expense of cleaning up a contaminated water supply or finding alternative sources of water; and

preserving or enhancing the economic value of the area by securing an abundant supply of clean water.

Protective strategies that the Little Hocking Water Association may consider while developing its Drinking Water Source Protection Plan include:

Educational Outreach: Informing people who live, work, or own property within your protection area about the benefits of drinking water protection is very important. Although some communities develop their own educational outreach resources, assistance is available at no cost from various agencies. For example, staff from Ohio EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention can visit businesses (free of charge) and provide recommendations on how they can modify their processes, materials and practices to generate less pollution in a cost-effective and technically feasible manner. Homeowners should also be made aware of the potential threat they can pose to the water supply, such as from their septic systems. For more information on available brochures and educational information please contact the Wellhead/Drinking Water Protection staff at (614) 644-2752.

Zoning Ordinances: A water protection zoning ordinance is a regulatory control that typically places some restrictions or standards on activities conducted within a specified zone (in this case, the wellhead protection area). Such ordinances enable the municipality to require people who live or work in this area to avoid contaminating the source of the municipality's drinking water. Ordinances can help ensure best management practices are being employed at local businesses and can help reduce the volume of contaminants stored within the protection area. The Little Hocking Water Association may want to consider working with Washington County and Belpre Township to develop a zoning overlay that requires specific standards for chemical storage, handling of waste materials, and other source control strategies. Several communities in Ohio have enacted very successful water protection ordinances. Copies can be obtained by contacting Craig Smith at (614) 644-3144.

State Routes 618 and 339: There is a potential for spills along State Routes 618 and 339. The Little Hocking Water Association may want to consider contacting the local fire department and local emergency planning agency about the location of the drinking water source protection area, so that strategies can be developed to avoid spilled materials impacting the aquifer. The Little Hocking Water Association may also consider placing signs on State Routes 618 and 339 indicating the area is a drinking water protection area (information on how to receive free signs from the Ohio Department of Transportation is attached to this letter). Posting the telephone number of the local fire department or other emergency number near telephones is another protection strategy the Association could consider.