

Drinking Water Protection

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Source Water Assessments: The ICPRB is deeply involved in helping the jurisdictions of the Potomac Basin assess the health and safety of their drinking water supplies. The programs overseeing the implementation of these assessments, known as Source Water Assessment Programs (SWAP) were created through amendments to the [Safe Drinking Water Act in 1996](#) .

The amendments require that States assess all their watersheds that recharge the water supply for public drinking water systems for potential contaminant sources that may affect water quality at the water intake. Four tasks are to be completed in order to comply with these requirements. They are:

1. Delineation of the watershed above the source water intake
2. Inventory all potential non-point and point sources of contamination
3. Determine the susceptibility of the water supply to the contaminant sources
4. Make the results public to the community served by the water supplier

When completed, the assessments help water suppliers protect the sources of their drinking water from contamination and provide valuable information to the general public about the safety and reliability of their drinking water.

Toxic Spills: more to come

[Potomac Drinking Water Source Protection](#): Millions of people living in the Potomac River Basin are provided with safe drinking water every day. Meeting emerging challenges and ensuring a reliable supply for the future, however, requires vigilance and cooperation. By undertaking a collaborative approach, the unique [Potomac Drinking Water Source Protection](#) (DWSP) Partnership – almost two dozen water suppliers and government agencies – helps to ensure that people’s most basic need for clean, safe and abundant water is reliably met.