

Contact Info:

WHP News Release

(Gravel and Aggregate Mining Operations)

Drinking Water and Gravel/Aggregate Mining Operations—Things You Should Know

The City of _____ is working together with its Wellhead Protection Committee and local, state and federal agencies to protect area drinking water sources through the implementation of its Wellhead Protection Plan. In the process of extracting useful materials from the land, gravel and aggregate mining operations can become a significant source of groundwater contamination if they are not managed in such a way as to prevent contaminants from entering the aquifer. Drinking water that has become contaminated with chemicals originating from products or chemicals used in the mining operation can create adverse health effects for those who consume the drinking water. Those in the mining industry can take preventative steps to protect drinking water such as using and storing hazardous chemicals properly, servicing and storing equipment in areas less sensitive to contamination, and maintaining a current Emergency Response Plan in the event of a spill.

Those who wish learn how to become actively involved in the protection of drinking water or to learn additional ways to effectively manage your mining operation to prevent groundwater contamination are encouraged to contact the City of _____ Wellhead Protection Manager, at _____ or log on to the Minnesota Rural Water Association website at mrwa@mrwa.com or contact the Minnesota Department of Health at (651) 201-4700.