

Appendix A: Definition and Application of Key Terms

Aquifer

Geologic formation composed of rock, sand, or gravel that contains significant amounts of potentially recoverable water.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Means the practice or combination of practices determined to be the most practicable means of preventing or reducing, to a level compatible with water quality goals, the amount of pollution generated by nonpoint sources. BMPs are selected on the basis of site-specific conditions that reflect natural background conditions and political, social, economic, and technical feasibility.

Drinking Water Supply

Water extracted from a stream, river, lake, pond or reservoir used as a public drinking water supply, as defined under RSA 485:1-a.

Drinking Water Testing

No drinking water test results have been obtained or included in this Draft Plan. In the future, the Town of New Boston as well as the residents of the community may want to obtain this information on a town wide basis to assess groundwater quality throughout the community as well as consider private well testing as a mandatory requirement as part the of condition of a local well permit or the issuance of building/occupancy permits.

Groundwater

Subsurface water that occurs beneath the water table in soils and geologic formations.

Groundwater Recharge

The infiltration of precipitation through surface soil materials into the groundwater. Recharge may also occur from surface waters, including lakes, streams and wetlands.

Leachable Wastes

Waste materials, including solid wastes, sludge and agricultural wastes capable of releasing contaminants to the surrounding environment.

Potential Contamination Source

Means human activities that pose a risk that regulated contaminants might be introduced into the environment in such quantities as to degrade the natural groundwater system.

Private Drinking Water Wells

According to NH DES, private wells supply drinking water to about 40 percent of the population of New Hampshire but are not regulated or monitored for water quality by state and federal agencies. Although both public water systems and private drinking water wells must be registered with NH DES only a few

communities within the state require water quality and quantity testing as a condition of a local well permit or building/occupancy permit. In addition, there are very few local requirements for subsequent monitoring of water quality or water quantity of private drinking water wells. For all private wells, NH DES recommends regular water testing for certain contaminants. See NH DES's website at: http://des.nh.gov/well_testing.htm for more details.

Public Water System

A public water system is defined as a system for the provision to the public of piped water for human consumption, if such system has at least 15 service connections or regularly serves an average of at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year. There are three types of public water systems identified by NH DES:

- **Community Systems**: a public water system which serves at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents. These systems typically include municipal, apartment/condominium complexes, and mobile home parks.
- **Non-Transient/Non-Community Systems**: a public water system designed to serve at least 25 people, for at least 6 months per year. Examples include schools, day care facilities, year round office buildings, commercial and industrial use, and businesses with permanent employees.
- **Transient/Non-Community Systems**: a public water system designed to serve at least 25 people, for at least 60 days per year. Examples include restaurants, motels, hotels, ski areas, beaches and campgrounds.

New Boston currently only has Transient and Non-Transient/ Non-Community systems in town. In New Hampshire, 95 percent of the public water systems in the state are "very small" systems (serving less than 500 persons).

Recharge Areas

The land surface area from which groundwater recharge occurs.

Regulated Substance

(defined in [New Hampshire] Administrative Rule Env-Wq 401) Any of the following, with the exclusion of ammonia, sodium hypochlorite, sodium hydroxide, acetic acid, sulfuric acid, potassium hydroxide, and potassium permanganate:

- (1) Oil as defined in RSA 146-A:2, III.
- (2) Any substance that contains a regulated contaminant for which an ambient groundwater quality standard has been established pursuant to RSA 485-C:6.
- (3) Any substance listed in 40 CFR 302, 7-1-05 edition.

Sanitary Protective Radius

The area around a public water well which must be maintained in its natural undisturbed state as required by Env-Ws 378 or 379 (for community water systems); Env-Ws 372.12 and Env-Ws 372.13 (for other public water systems). Typically, the sanitary protective radius ranges from 75 to 400 feet, depending on the amount of water withdrawn from the well. The minimum radius for a community well is 150 feet. The “natural state” requirement for new community wells prohibits all development within the sanitary radius of the well. Other non-community public water systems (i.e. hotels, campgrounds, convenience stores, etc.) have a less restrictive natural state requirement that allows a limited set of uses (i.e. parking lots, tennis courts) within the sanitary radii.

Site Coverage

That portion of the entire parcel or site which, through the development of the parcel, is rendered impervious to groundwater infiltration.

Solid Waste

Any discarded or abandoned material including refuse, putrescible material, septage, or sludge, as defined by New Hampshire Solid Waste Rules. Solid waste includes solid, liquid, semi-solid, or gaseous waste material.

Toxic or Hazardous Materials

Any substance which poses an actual or potential hazard to water supplies or human health if such a substance were discharged to land or waters of the town. Hazardous materials include: volatile organic compounds, petroleum products, heavy metals, radioactive or infectious wastes, acids and alkalies. Also included are pesticides, herbicides, solvents and thinners, and such other substances as defined in the NH Water Supply and Pollution Control Rules, Section Ws 410.04(1), in the NH Solid Waste Rules, and in the Code of Federal Regulations 40 CFR 261 as amended.

Wellhead Protection Area

A Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) is the area surrounding a public water system from which water and contaminants are likely to reach the well. NH DES only recognizes WHPAs for community water systems and for non-transient, non-community water systems, but not for transient systems.