

The DEQ Source Water Assessment Online Interactive Application

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The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has developed an interactive website for the Source Water Assessment Program. The website allows the public to view data, maps, and reports related to the susceptibility of public water systems (PWS) to various contaminants. The DEQ assesses every public water system (PWS) in Idaho for its relative susceptibility to contaminants that are regulated by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The water source for approximately 95% of PWSs within Idaho is ground water (using either wells or springs to withdraw the water); while the remaining PWSs use surface water as the water source. The ultimate goal of each source water assessment is to provide data that communities can use to develop and implement protection strategies for their drinking water sources. Each source water assessment involves three primary components, which are now available on DEQ's website. The three features that will be demonstrated during this presentation include: 1. The source water assessment delineation, which determines the area of water contribution for each source, 2. The potential contaminant inventory, which identifies potential sources of drinking water contamination within the source water assessment delineation, and 3. The susceptibility analysis, which determines the susceptibility of the water supply to potential contaminants identified in the potential contaminant inventory. The DEQ strongly encourages each PWS and community to use its source water assessment, along with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement strategies to protect drinking water sources.