

CASE HISTORY

IDEM Wellhead Protection Planning Reviews

Challenge:

As part of its statewide wellhead protection program, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is required to review the wellhead protection plans (WHP) for drinking water supplies within the state of Indiana. Wellhead Protection is a proactive approach, and involves delineation of these areas based on the time-of-travel zones to water supply wells, and WHP planning for implementation of optimal management strategies for the protection of groundwater.

Action:

IDEM contracted with MUNDELL to provide detailed consistent reviews of eighty (80) management plans for wellhead areas throughout the state of Indiana. The reviews were performed to assure compliance with the Indiana Wellhead Protection Rule (327 IAC 8-4.1). MUNDELL reviewed the Phase I plans to ensure that the following were adequately addressed: establishment of the Local Planning Team (LPT), wellhead protection area delineation, identify and inventory of potential sources of contamination (PSCs), management plan for the PSCs, and development of a contingency plan. The review procedure involved continual interaction with the water utilities/consultants, providing technical as well as administrative guidance and help in developing and implementing optimal management plans. The approach included an objective assessment and an unbiased evaluation of the management plans and provided appropriate analysis and suggestions in order to enhance the plans.

Results:

With expertise in the development of appropriate review and quality assurance procedures in water resource planning, MUNDELL personnel successfully completed all reviews ahead of schedule, resulting in approved wellhead protection plans for a large number of communities throughout Indiana.

