

# SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT REPORT

## AN EVALUATION OF THE SUSCEPTIBILITY OF PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SOURCES TO POTENTIAL CONTAMINATION

APA 39

Aug-03

### Connecticut Water Company Northern Region, Somers System Preston Wellfield

The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently completed an assessment of the Preston Wellfield, which is a source of public drinking water that is maintained and operated by the Connecticut Water Company. This one-time assessment is part of a nationwide effort mandated by Congress under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 to evaluate the susceptibility of all public drinking water sources in Connecticut to potential sources of contamination. DPH began working in partnership with the DEP in 1997 to develop Connecticut's Source Water Assessment Program, which was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1999. Sources of potential contamination that are of concern to public drinking water supplies here in Connecticut are generally associated with historic waste disposal or commercial, industrial, agricultural and residential properties that store or use hazardous materials like petroleum products, solvents or agricultural chemicals.

The assessment is intended to provide Connecticut Water Company consumers with information about where their public drinking water comes from, sources of potential contamination that could impact it, and what can be done to help protect it. This assessment will also assist the public water supply system, regional planners, local government, public health officials and state agencies in evaluating the degree to which the Preston Wellfield may be at risk from potential sources of contamination. The assessment can be used to target and implement enhanced source water protection measures such as routine inspections, protective land use regulations, acquisition of critical land, proper septic system maintenance, and public education. General sources of contamination with the potential to impact the Preston Wellfield include properties with underground fuel storage tanks, improperly maintained on-site septic systems, improper waste disposal, or commercial/industrial sites that store or use chemicals or generate hazardous wastes.

#### Preston Wellfield Source Water Assessment Summary

STRENGTHS

**Public Water System Source Protection Program**

POTENTIAL RISK FACTORS

**Potential contaminant sources in source water area**

**No local aquifer protection regulations**

**2 contaminant release points in source water area**

Susceptibility Rating

| Rating   | Environmental Sensitivity | Potential Risk Factors | Source Protection Needs |
|----------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Low      | X                         |                        |                         |
| Moderate |                           |                        |                         |
| High     |                           | X                      | X                       |

**Overall Susceptibility Rating: High**

*This rating indicates susceptibility to potential sources of contamination that may be in the wellfield source water area and does not necessarily imply poor water quality.*

Detailed information about the specific factors and information used in establishing this rating can be found in Table 1. Information about opportunities to improve protection in the Preston Wellfield source water area is also presented in Table 2.



Keeping Connecticut Healthy

State of Connecticut Department of Public Health

**Drinking Water Division**

410 Capitol Avenue – MS# 51WAT  
P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134  
(860) 509-7333

**OVERVIEW** - The Preston Wellfield is located in an aquifer that is comprised largely of water-bearing sand and gravel deposits. The source water area is delineated by a preliminary Level B aquifer protection mapping area, which encompasses some 356.8 acres of land in Somers. Vacant land and residential properties in the Preston Wellfield source water area presently account for approximately 56.8 percent of the land cover. Commercial development at 11.5 percent and agricultural land use at 31.7 percent, account for the remainder of the land coverage's in the source water area. Information about drinking water quality and treatment is available in the Connecticut Water Company's annual Consumer Confidence Report.

**ASSESSMENT METHODS.**

The drinking water source assessment methods used by the Department of Public Health Drinking Water Division to evaluate the susceptibility of public drinking water sources to contamination are based on criteria individually tailored to surface water and groundwater sources. The criteria are keyed to sanitary conditions in the source water area, the presence of potential or historic sources of contamination, existing land use coverage's, and the need for additional source protection measures within the source water area. Source-specific data for community and non-community systems were used to determine whether a particular criterion should be rated as low, moderate or high, relative to the risk of potential contamination at the drinking water source. Further, a ranking system was used to compute an average rank for each community drinking water source based on its environmental sensitivity, potential risk of contamination and source protection needs.

Wellfields rated as having a low, moderate or high susceptibility to potential sources of contamination generally exhibit the characteristics summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1 – General Source Water Area Characteristics and Susceptibility Ratings**

| <b>Susceptibility Rating</b> | <b>General Characteristics of the Source Water Area*</b>  |
|------------------------------|---|
| Low                          | Low density of potential contaminant sources<br>Lower intensity of land development   |
| Moderate                     | Low to moderate density of potential contaminant sources<br>Moderate intensity of land development  |
| High                         | Moderate to high density of potential contaminant sources<br>Higher intensity of land development<br>No local aquifer protection regulations<br>Detectable nitrates and/or volatile organic chemicals in the untreated source water during the past three years that are below the maximum contaminant levels allowed by state and federal drinking water regulations |

*\* Note: Not all characteristics may be present for a given susceptibility rating*

*Readers of this assessment are encouraged to use the attached glossary to assist in the understanding of the terms and concepts used throughout this report.*

*Maps representing the location and features of the Preston Wellfield source water area have not been included with this assessment report because of homeland security concerns*

**PRESTON WELLFIELD ASSESSMENT RESULTS.**

Based on a combination of current wellfield and source water area conditions, existing potential contaminant sources, and the level of source protection measures currently in place, the source water assessment for this wellfield indicates that it has an overall High risk of contamination from identified potential sources of contamination. It should be noted that this rating does not necessarily imply poor water quality or ongoing violations of the Connecticut Public Health Code. The assessment findings for the Preston Wellfield are summarized in Table 2, which lists current conditions in the wellfield source water area and recommendations or opportunities to enhance protection of this public drinking water source. A listing of potential contaminant source types in the area can be found in Table 3. A summary of source water area features is shown in Table 4.

The assessment of this and other comparable wellfields throughout Connecticut generally finds that adopting recommendations similar to those presented in Table 2 could reduce the susceptibility of most groundwater sources to potential sources of contamination.

**Table 2**

**Source Water Assessment Findings and Source Protection Opportunities  
Northern Region, Somers System Preston Wellfield**

| <b>Assessment Category</b>  | <b>Conditions Through June 2002</b>  | <b>Recommendations and Source Protection Opportunities</b>   |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Environmental Sensitivity Factors</b></p> <p><b>Contaminants Detected in Untreated Source Water</b></p> | <p>All wells in the Preston Wellfield are sited and constructed in accordance with DPH regulations and the most recent DPH sanitary survey of this wellfield indicates that it is free of deficiencies.</p> <p>Nitrate &gt;1mg/L</p> <p>Except where noted above, any detected contaminants listed are below maximum contaminant levels (MCL) established by the federal government or guidance levels established by the Connecticut Department of Public Health. The presence of these contaminants, in general, indicates that this wellfield is sensitive to human activity.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here to review EPA's current drinking water standards</a>T</p> | <p>Maintain monitoring levels specified in the Connecticut Public Health Code Section 19-13-B102</p> <p>Encourage homeowners to adopt residential best management practices that minimize the use hazardous materials or generation of hazardous waste.</p>  |
| <p><b>Potential Risk Factors</b></p>  | <p>Potential contaminant sources in source water area</p> <p>2 contaminant release points in source water area</p> <p>More than 30% of land for this source water area is undeveloped, which could present a risk if developed inappropriately.</p> <p>Ten percent or more of the source water area has been developed for commercial or industrial use</p>  | <p>Periodically inspect SPCS sites and maintain a water quality monitoring program consistent with the level of potential risk</p> <p>Maintain an adequate level of surveillance around contaminant release point sites to insure that groundwater contamination is not occurring</p> <p>Proactively work with local officials and developers to insure that only low-risk development occurs within the source water area</p> <p>Monitor activities at commercial and industrial facilities to insure that best management practices are being followed</p> <p>Encourage residential property owners to conduct scheduled inspections and maintenance of underground fuel storage tanks and on-site septic systems.</p> |
| <p><b>Source Protection Needs Factors</b></p>   | <p>Level B aquifer mapping completed</p> <p>Portions of the 200 foot sanitary radius around wellheads for this wellfield are not owned or controlled by the public water system.</p> <p>Local aquifer protection regulations have not been adopted for this source water area</p> <p>Very little or no public/private preserved open space lands are present in the source water area</p>  | <p>Complete Level A mapping</p> <p>Where feasible, increase ownership or control of 200 foot sanitary radius around all wellheads for this wellfield</p> <p>Develop and adopt local aquifer protection regulations</p> <p>Support and encourage the acquisition of open space land within the source water area</p> <p>Support environmental awareness and education within the community.</p>   |

Inventoried significant potential contaminant sources in the Preston Wellfield source water area are listed in Table 3. While these facilities have the potential to cause groundwater contamination, there is no indication that they are doing so at this time.

**Table 3 Summary of Significant Potential Contaminant Types in the Preston Wellfield Source Water Area**

| Category                              | Subcategory                                | Number of SPCS Types |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Waste Storage, Handling, Disposal     | Hazardous Waste Facilities                 | 2                    |
|                                       | Solid Waste Facilities                     | 0                    |
|                                       | Miscellaneous                              | 0                    |
| Bulk Chemical, Petroleum Storage      | Underground Storage Tanks                  | 5                    |
|                                       | Tank Farms                                 | 0                    |
|                                       | Warehouses                                 | 0                    |
| Industrial Manufacturing / Processing | Chemical & Allied Production               | 0                    |
|                                       | Chemical Use Processing                    | 5                    |
|                                       | Miscellaneous                              | 5                    |
| Commercial Trades and Services        | Automotive and Related Services            | 12                   |
|                                       | Chemical Use Services                      | 1                    |
|                                       | Miscellaneous                              | 0                    |
| Agriculture and Related               | Pesticide Storage, Handling or Application | 0                    |
| Total Number of Contaminant Types     |  | 30                   |

Prominent features of the Preston Wellfield source water area are summarized in Table 4.

**Table 4 Features of the Preston Wellfield Source Water Area**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Number and Type of Public Drinking Water Supply Wells                  | 2 stratified drift wells   |
| Source Water Area Delineation Method <sup>a</sup>                      | preliminary Level B  |
| DEP Groundwater Classification   | GAA - Groundwater used as a public drinking water supply, presumed to be drinkable without treatment |
| Size of Source Water Area  | 356.8 acres  |
| Location of Source Water Area  | Somers   |
| Predominant Land Use and Land Cover in Source Water Area <sup>b</sup>  |  |
| -Urban - Commercial or Industrial                                      | 11.5 %   |
| -Urban - Residential   | 20.2 %   |
| -Agricultural  | 31.7 %   |
| -Undeveloped Land  | 36.6 %   |
| Preserved Land In Source Water Area <sup>d</sup>                       | 7.0 acres  |
| Significant Potential Contamination Sources                            |  |
| -Number of inventoried facilities in source water area                 | 23   |
| -Count of inventoried facilities per square mile                       | 41.25 per sq mile  |
| -Number of contaminant sources within inventoried facilities           | 30   |
| Number of Contaminant Release Points Inventoried by CTDEP <sup>c</sup> | 2  |

<sup>a</sup> Source water delineation method depends on data available for the wellfield

<sup>b</sup> Based on statewide data layer of land use and land cover developed by UCONN Dept of Natural Resource Management Engineering and Connecticut DEP satellite imagery.

<sup>c</sup> Sites or locations with documented accidental spills, leaks or discharges. While these sources, which are cataloged and tracked by the Connecticut DEP, may fall within a public drinking water supply source water area, they may or may not presently be discharging to the environment or causing contamination of a public drinking water source.

<sup>d</sup> Any combination of state forest and parklands and municipally or privately held land designated as open space.

## Connecticut Water Company Northern Region - Somers System

| Well Name  | Well Location | Well Type | DEP Groundwater Classification | Source Water Area (acres) |
|------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ellis Well | Somers        | Bedrock   | GAA-Well                       | 18                        |

| Factor   | Source Water Assessment Ratings For This Well | Rating   |
|--|---|----------|
| I  | <b>Environmental Sensitivity</b>              | Low      |
| II   | <b>Potential Risk Factors</b>                 | Low      |
| III  | <b>Source Protection Needs</b>                | High     |
| Overall Susceptibility to Potential Sources of Contamination   |   | Moderate |
| This rating is intended to indicate susceptibility to potential sources of contamination that may be in the wellfield source water area and does not necessarily imply poor water quality. |   |          |

| Assessment Factor | Initial Assessment Findings  | Recommendations for Enhanced Source Protection   |
|-------------------|--|--|
| I                 | Contaminants Detected in Source Water<br>Nitrate >1 mg/L   | Maintain monitoring levels specified in the Connecticut Public Health Code Section 19-13-B102  |
| I                 | General condition of well and related equipment<br>Good  | Maintain well and equipment according to best management practices   |
| II                | DEP-inventoried Contaminant Release Points<br>There are no DEP-inventoried contaminant release points in the well's source water area                  |  |
| II                | Potential Sources of Contamination<br>There are no potential sources of contamination present in this well's source water area                         |  |
| II                | Source Water Area Land Use In The Town Of:<br>Somers<br>(Based on Satellite Imagery developed by University of Conn.)                                  | Commercial/Industrial 0.0%<br>Residential 18.6%<br>Agricultural 23.6%<br>Open or Undeveloped 57.9%<br>Proactively work with local officials and developers to insure that only low risk development occurs within the source water area.<br>Support and encourage the acquisition of open space land within the source water area. |
| III               | Land Area Around Wellhead<br>Public water system does not own or control entire 200 foot sanitary radius around well                                   | Where feasible, increase ownership or control of 200 foot sanitary radius around the wellhead  |
| III               | Local Aquifer Protection Regulations<br>There are no local aquifer protection regulations for this source water area                                   | Support the development of local aquifer protection regulations  |
| III               | Local Government Source Protection Initiatives<br>Comprehensive drinking water source protection policies do not exist at the local governmental level | Promote the development of drinking water source protection policies at the local governmental level   |
| III               | Water System Source Protection Initiatives<br>Public water system maintains a comprehensive source protection program                                  |  |



Keeping Connecticut Healthy

State of Connecticut Department of Public Health  
Drinking Water Division

410 Capitol Avenue – MS# 51WAT  
P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134  
(860) 509-7333

## Connecticut Water Company Northern Region - Somers System

| Well Name        | Well Location | Well Type | DEP Groundwater Classification | Source Water Area (acres) |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Fuller Hurd Well | Somers        | Bedrock   | GAA-Well-Impaired              | 18                        |

| Factor   | Source Water Assessment Ratings For This Well | Rating   |
|--|---|----------|
| I  | <b>Environmental Sensitivity</b>              | Moderate |
| II   | <b>Potential Risk Factors</b>                 | Moderate |
| III  | <b>Source Protection Needs</b>                | High     |
| Overall Susceptibility to Potential Sources of Contamination   |   | High     |
| This rating is intended to indicate susceptibility to potential sources of contamination that may be in the wellfield source water area and does not necessarily imply poor water quality. |   |          |

| Assessment Factor | Initial Assessment Findings   | Recommendations for Enhanced Source Protection   |
|-------------------|---|--|
| I                 | <b>Contaminants Detected in Source Water</b><br>Nitrate >1 mg/L   | Maintain monitoring levels specified in the Connecticut Public Health Code Section 19-13-B102  |
| I                 | <b>General condition of well and related equipment</b><br>Good  | Maintain well and equipment according to best management practices   |
| II                | <b>DEP-inventoried Contaminant Release Points</b><br>There are no DEP-inventoried contaminant release points in the well's source water area  |  |
| II                | <b>Potential Sources of Contamination</b><br>There is one potential source of contamination present in this well's source water area  | Periodically inspect these sites and maintain a water quality monitoring program consistent with the level of potential risk   |
| II                | <b>Source Water Area Land Use In The Town Of: Somers</b><br>(Based on Satellite Imagery developed by University of Conn.)<br>Commercial/Industrial 3.3%<br>Residential 93.5%<br>Agricultural 1.0%<br>Open or Undeveloped 2.1% | Proactively work with local officials and developers to insure that only low risk development occurs within the source water area.<br>Support and encourage the acquisition of open space land within the source water area. |
| III               | <b>Land Area Around Wellhead</b><br>Public water system does not own or control entire 200 foot sanitary radius around well   | Where feasible, increase ownership or control of 200 foot sanitary radius around the wellhead  |
| III               | <b>Local Aquifer Protection Regulations</b><br>There are no local aquifer protection regulations for this source water area   | Support the development of local aquifer protection regulations  |
| III               | <b>Local Government Source Protection Initiatives</b><br>Comprehensive drinking water source protection policies do not exist at the local governmental level   | Promote the development of drinking water source protection policies at the local governmental level   |
| III               | <b>Water System Source Protection Initiatives</b><br>Public water system maintains a comprehensive source protection program  |  |



Keeping Connecticut Healthy

State of Connecticut Department of Public Health  
Drinking Water Division

410 Capitol Avenue – MS# 51WAT  
P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134  
(860) 509-7333

## Connecticut Water Company Northern Region - Somers System

| Well Name  | Well Location | Well Type | DEP Groundwater Classification | Source Water Area (acres) |
|------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Keery Well | Somers        | Bedrock   | GAA-Well                       | 81                        |

| Factor   | Source Water Assessment Ratings For This Well | Rating   |
|--|---|----------|
| I  | <b>Environmental Sensitivity</b>              | Low      |
| II   | <b>Potential Risk Factors</b>                 | Moderate |
| III  | <b>Source Protection Needs</b>                | High     |
| Overall Susceptibility to Potential Sources of Contamination   |   | High     |
| This rating is intended to indicate susceptibility to potential sources of contamination that may be in the wellfield source water area and does not necessarily imply poor water quality. |   |          |

| Assessment Factor | Initial Assessment Findings   | Recommendations for Enhanced Source Protection   |
|-------------------|---|--|
| I                 | <b>Contaminants Detected in Source Water</b><br>Nitrate >1 mg/L   | Maintain monitoring levels specified in the Connecticut Public Health Code Section 19-13-B102  |
| I                 | <b>General condition of well and related equipment</b><br>Good  | Maintain well and equipment according to best management practices   |
| II                | <b>DEP-inventoried Contaminant Release Points</b><br>There are no DEP-inventoried contaminant release points in the well's source water area  |  |
| II                | <b>Potential Sources of Contamination</b><br>There is one potential source of contamination present in this well's source water area  | Periodically inspect these sites and maintain a water quality monitoring program consistent with the level of potential risk   |
| II                | <b>Source Water Area Land Use In The Town Of: Somers</b><br>(Based on Satellite Imagery developed by University of Conn.)<br>Commercial/Industrial 0.3%<br>Residential 36.5%<br>Agricultural 17.8%<br>Open or Undeveloped 45.4% | Proactively work with local officials and developers to insure that only low risk development occurs within the source water area.<br>Support and encourage the acquisition of open space land within the source water area. |
| III               | <b>Land Area Around Wellhead</b><br>Public water system does not own or control entire 200 foot sanitary radius around well   | Where feasible, increase ownership or control of 200 foot sanitary radius around the wellhead  |
| III               | <b>Local Aquifer Protection Regulations</b><br>There are no local aquifer protection regulations for this source water area   | Support the development of local aquifer protection regulations  |
| III               | <b>Local Government Source Protection Initiatives</b><br>Comprehensive drinking water source protection policies do not exist at the local governmental level   | Promote the development of drinking water source protection policies at the local governmental level   |
| III               | <b>Water System Source Protection Initiatives</b><br>Public water system maintains a comprehensive source protection program  |  |



Keeping Connecticut Healthy

State of Connecticut Department of Public Health  
Drinking Water Division

410 Capitol Avenue – MS# 51WAT  
P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134  
(860) 509-7333