

ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



Troutdale Sole Source Aquifer Petition, Clark County, Washington

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

January 2006

EPA Considers Request to Designate Troutdale Aquifer “Sole Source”

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering a request, submitted as a formal petition, to designate an aquifer system in Clark County, Washington a “sole source aquifer.” A sole source aquifer is an underground water supply designated by EPA as the sole or principal source of drinking water for an area. The petitioned Troutdale Aquifer System covers about one half of Clark County and is 2,000 feet thick in some areas. This system is bounded on the north by the Lewis River, on the west and south by the Columbia River, and on the east by the older rock geologic unit.

The Columbia Riverkeeper, Rosemere Neighborhood Association, and eight independent Clark County citizens submitted the petition. They want to raise public and governmental awareness of how vulnerable the system is to contamination. They hope to do that by designating the Clark County portion of the Troutdale Aquifer System a sole source. According to the petition, the system provides about 97% of the drinking water to people living in the aquifer area. In addition, there are no other drinking water sources nearby that would be economically feasible to develop.

Send Your Comments on EPA’s Support Document by May 1, 2006

EPA is drafting a document that describes how the aquifer meets the criteria for sole source designation called “Support Document for Sole Source Aquifer Designation of the Troutdale Aquifer System.”

This draft document will be available for public review and comment from March 1, 2006 for sixty (60) days. From March 1, you can view the document online at [http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/](http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/Sole+Source+Aquifers/Program)

[Sole+Source+Aquifers/Program](http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/Sole+Source+Aquifers/Program),

or at the

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360-695-1566**

Send or e-mail your comments, postmarked by May 1, 2006, to:

**Martha Lentz
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1200 Sixth Avenue, OEA-095
Seattle, Washington 98101
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During the comment period, EPA will consider substantive technical comments that relate to the aquifer system boundaries, drinking water use calculations, and the alternative drinking water source evaluation. The petition is posted on the web as a resource for specific data used in the evaluations.

Interested in a Public Hearing?

If enough people are interested, EPA will hold a public hearing. If you are interested in one, call **Martha Lentz at 800-424-4372, ext.1593, by March 17, 2006.**

The Goal of the Sole Source Aquifer Program: Protect People’s Health

The Sole Source Aquifer Program is authorized by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Under the program, the two criteria EPA focuses on to designate an aquifer sole source are:

- 1) It must be the sole or principal source (at least 50%) of drinking water for people living in the area.
- 2) There can be no other feasible source of drinking water in the area.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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The Goal: Protect Health *continued*

While sole source aquifer designations can boost state and local efforts to protect aquifers, they do not give comprehensive protection. A designation allows EPA to review and approve federally funded projects which could contaminate the aquifer. This review aims to protect people's health by preventing contamination of drinking water that comes from the aquifer.

EPA does not review private, state, or locally funded projects. EPA typically reviews only those federal projects posing the greatest risk of becoming contaminated and affecting people's health. Some examples are federally funded road projects, sewage treatment facilities, and storm water runoff plans.

Steps to Designate a Sole Source Aquifer

- Petitioner requests designation
- EPA writes a draft support document to designate the aquifer sole source
- Public comment period held for draft support document
- EPA reviews and considers comments
- EPA writes the final support document
- EPA Region 10's Administrator uses final support document to decide whether to designate the aquifer

For more information, contact:

Martha Lentz 800-424-4372 ext. 1593 or
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For questions about getting involved or the mailing list, contact:

Debra Sherbina at 800-424-4372, ext. 0247 or
e-mail: sherbina.debra@epa.gov



Alternative formats are available. To request reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities, please call Debra Sherbina. TTY users, please call 800-977-8339.