

***Source Water Protection Plan  
For  
Midland-Lonaconing Water System***

***Prepared by:  
The Midland-Lonaconing Source Water  
Protection Planning Committee***

***2004***



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## *I. Introduction*

The EPA has provided that, under the Safe Drinking Water Act, Source Water Protection Programs be established in all states. The EPA provides guidance on the establishment and implementation of this program. The Federal mandate to states allowed the Primacy Agency, the Maryland Department of the Environment, Water Supply Division, in 1996 to create a Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAPP), and to provide each Public Water Supply System (PWSS) with a Source Water Assessment Report.

The EPA guidance on Source Water Program implementation indicates that further development and implementation of protection and planning portions of the assessments for public water sources, should then be handed over to local entities. The management and planning phases of source water protection as outlined by the EPA, clearly indicates that local entities are not required by law to act to implement the Source Water Program.

This Source Water Protection Plan was prepared by the Midland-Lonaconing Source Water Protection Planning Committee and the Maryland Rural Water Association for the Midland-Lonaconing Water System. This document represents the management and planning phases of source water protection as identified by the EPA. The plan is seen as an extension to the Source Water Assessment Report provided by the MDE to the Midland-Lonaconing Water System.

The purpose of this Source Water Protection Plan is to identify potential threats to drinking water supplies within the wellhead protection zone for groundwater sources and within the zone of critical concern for surface water sources for the three watersheds in the Midland-Lonaconing Water System, and to identify potential avenues for planning and management of those threats at the local level.

Additionally, this plan will aid community and town administrators by informing them of the potential threats to public drinking water supplies and recommended measures that can be implemented to further reduce those threats. Jurisdictional entities will be encouraged to identify the preventive measures each entity can implement throughout their watershed to protect public drinking water sources.

The Source Water Protection Plan will be designed to reduce or eliminate the potential threats to drinking water supplies within source water protection areas by using non-regulatory (voluntary) measures centered around an involved public or at the discretion of the local communities through federal, state, local regulatory or statutory controls.

This plan is designed to support conservation and watershed protection activities, and avoid unnecessary adverse effects on other activities in the watershed. This plan provides a list of best management practices selected by this committee and its jurisdictional entities that have provided their commitment to pursue implementation of those best management options within the county.

This plan has identified a Steering Committee from the local communities and involved Associations to follow up after the source water protection implementation phase is completed. The role of the steering committee is to call meetings, at a minimum annually, of all the participants of the Source Water Protection Planning Committee to review the effectiveness of the plan and implementation efforts. This will ensure not only a review of current preventative measures, but also ownership of the plan, and the continued sustainability of the plan.

This document will remain active and will be reviewed annually by committee members and the public in order to sustain continual protection activities surrounding public drinking water supplies for the Midland-Lonaconing Water System.

## ***II. Potential Sources of Contamination for Midland-Lonaconing Watersheds***

Appendix D is a list of MDE Map Codes used in mapping and inventorying Potential Contaminant Sources by the MDE SWAP Program.

Tables A through E are inventories of Potential and Existing Sources of Ground and Surface Water Contamination for Midland-Lonaconing Water System by the MDE.

### ***III.A. Assessment of Threats to PWS***

The vulnerability of Midland-Lonaconing public drinking water sources to contaminants is summarized by Tables A-E for individual sources. The descriptions below address the contaminant types found in Midland-Lonaconing drinking water protection zones.

#### ***III.A.1. Agriculture (A-18)***

This is identified in the SWA completed by MDE in 2004 for all three sub watersheds.

#### ***III.A.2. Sewer & Septic Systems***

Septic systems and sewer lines represent potential sources of nitrates, chlorides, bacteria, and viruses. Improper disposal of paints, solvents, petroleum products, and other hazardous wastes can also be a source of organic compounds. Only the Gilmore reservoir currently has the potential for failed septic systems that could affect the source water supply.

#### ***III.A.3. Transportation***

All most all the goods and materials we use in our daily lives reach us in our local areas by roadway or railway. Our food as well as our gasoline and home heating fuel travel the same corridors. Some of the materials that we use in our lives are hazardous materials and must be handled with caution. Any spills must be dealt with immediately so that our health and that of our families are not in danger.

Outside of our homes, large volumes of necessary but hazardous materials travel the corridors through our communities. But unlike a tablespoon full of paint stripper or gasoline spilled on our garage floor, large volume tanks may represent a significant threat to one of Midland-Lonaconing drinking water sources. Currently, only the Bushkirk Hollow Road courses close to one of the three reservoirs.

Roadways are also considered a potential source of petroleum leaks from individual vehicles, as well as a source of sodium, chloride, arsenic, etc., from the application of road salts.

Transportation corridors are generally considered to be in the 'high risk' category when they traverse public drinking water protection areas.

#### III.A.4. Mining

The main concern is with the Russell Farm owned by the Barton Mining Company located SE of the Charlestown Reservoir intake. It is considered a potential threat to stream flow. The Town of Lonaconing would be willing to pursue the land in question, if feasible.

#### III.A.5. Logging

The Town of Lonaconing is willing to meet on a regular basis with the MDE, the Allegheny and Garrett County Soil Conservation District, and the MDNR Forestry to discuss conservative logging and permitting.

### **III.B. Impact to PWS**

#### III.B.1. Contaminant Detection in PWS

### **III.C. Recommended Actions**

Recommended actions are included in the SWA conducted by MDE in 2004.

## **IV. Jurisdictional Entities in the Midland-Lonaconing Watersheds**

The State of Maryland is the owner of the land.  
Allegheny County has the responsibility for permitting.

V. Contingency Plans for Midland-Lonaconing Water System

V.A. Emergency Response

If an emergency such as a spill or contamination occurs within any of the Source Protection Areas, the people/agencies will be notified as per the Emergency Response Plan on file with the Lonaconing Department of Utilities.

V.B. Notification of System Users

This will be done as per requirements issued by the MDE and set forth in the ERP.

V.C. Short Term Contingency Options

A Contingency Plan is on file with the Lonaconing Department of Utilities.

V.D. Long Term Contingency Options

A Contingency Plan is on file with the Lonaconing Department of Utilities.

V.E. Water System Shut Down and Start Up Procedures

Start-up and shut-down procedures for each water plant are located at the individual plants and on file with the Lonaconing Department of Utilities.

VI. PWS Management – Long & Short Term Planning

- A. Source Water Protection (SWP) Steering Committee
- B. Water Resources Advisory Council
- C. Public Information and Educational Outreach
- D. Best Management Practices (BMP) Survey Program
- E. PWSS Source Area Protection Signs
- F. Aquifer Protection Overlay Zones
- G. City & County Ordinances

VI.A. Source Water Protection (SWP) Steering Committee

The following persons comprise the SWP Steering Committee. This committee has developed this drinking water protection plan for their county and communities, and is committed to implementing the contaminant prevention measures outlined in this document. This committee will meet at a minimum once a year to review and update the plan and to assess its progress.

Source Water Protection Steering Committee members:

Tom	Reed	
Whiz	Foote	
John	Winner	
Sam	Thrasher	
Bob	Miller	
Joe	Everd	
David	Swain	
John	Bean	

VI.B. Management Plan

The source protection areas referred to in this plan are the well head protection zones and zone of critical concern for the Midland-Lonaconing public drinking water supplies. In an effort to reduce the potential risk of contamination to drinking water sources, this Committee will work with the community to implement the following management measures:

VI.C. Water Resources Advisory Council

The SWP (Source Water Protection) Steering Committee recommends that a Water Resources Advisory Council be formed, to advise the County Commission in the implementation of recommendations included in this report, and to take other action pursuant to the preservation of our source water. This Council could include the same individuals as the SWP Committee or a completely different group.

Suggested responsibilities of such a council could include:

1. Advisory body to the County Commissioners, regarding water resource issues.
2. Monitor and assist the implementation of actions recommended by this report with which the County Commission concurs.

3. Maintain and establish as appropriate, working and regulatory relationships with state and federal organizations that have influence on the drinking water in the county.
4. Identify and seek grants for the preservation and improvement of drinking water in the county.
5. Advise and assist in providing a Source Water Protection Public Information and Education Program for the county.

Recommended Action(s):

Appoint a Water Resources Advisory Council (WRAC) to advise the County Commissioners in the implementation of recommendations included in this report and to take other action pursuant to the preservation of source waters in the community.

VI C. Public Information and Educational Outreach

An intensive and on-going public information and education program can lessen many of the threats to source water that were identified in previous sections of this report. The primary objectives of this section are to foster water conservation and to inform and educate the water system citizens and the surrounding public about what they can personally do to minimize the contamination of source waters.

Should the Steering Committee decide to form a Water Resources Advisory Council as recommended in this report, such a council could advise and assist the County Commissioners with the continuation of this education and information program.

Some of the specific public information and education topics could include:

1. Wellhead and Source Water areas in the community.
2. The vulnerability of the communities' source waters to contamination.
3. Best Management Practices (BMP's)
4. Contamination sources
5. Water conservation
6. Septic system maintenance and care
7. Disposal of animal wastes
8. Impervious surfaces
9. Storm water runoff
10. Petrochemicals and Toxic Substances

Public education and awareness are the cornerstones of this Source Protection Plan because most individuals, homeowners, and businesses will work to protect their local groundwater if they know how to minimize contamination risks. The public information and educational outreach will include the following:

1. Send a letter and education information to all residences and businesses within source water protection areas. This letter will alert the recipient of the location of source areas and will accompany pamphlets about source water. Businesses that use greater-than-household quantities of regulated substances are identified as PCS's. PCS's will receive a different letter.
2. Develop a media campaign to reach the public with educational information about local drinking water and source water protection efforts. Action steps include:
  - A. Post source water and drinking water facts as bullets on public access television.
  - B. Place bullets and drinking water facts in school newsletters.



- C. Incorporate source water activities into school curricula.
  - D. Create or obtain informational pamphlets for businesses and home owners. Such pamphlets could be distributed by the town through their CCR or billing notices as examples, and to persons applying to the planning board for permits.
  - E. Create pamphlets or brochures about source water protection to distribute at a town meeting.
3. Hold an informational meeting with local residents about source water protection efforts to increase awareness between land use and drinking water quality. This could be structured as a meeting or as a water fair/public event with drinking water displays and activities.

#### VI D. Best Management Practices (BMP) Survey Program

The reason BMP survey programs are effective is because they are an ongoing town service that promotes awareness. BMP programs are mutually beneficial relationships between businesses and the town. Most businesses want to be perceived as “green” or environmentally-friendly businesses, and the surveyor can help businesses identify safer ways to store and handle chemicals.

The town benefits by playing an active role in preventing hazardous materials from contaminating source water, and through increased awareness of hazardous material users and locations.

BMP Survey programs can be either voluntary or mandatory. A voluntary program is one in which the surveyor asks to visit the business to talk about Best Management Practices and may only do so if the business is willing. A mandatory program requires the business to allow a survey.

In order to implement a mandatory program a town must gain the authority to enforce the State BMP Rules. This authority can be gained through local adoption of a town ordinance establishing the survey program.

The MDE, MDSCS, and other agencies have existing programs for Best Management Practices from which to draw resources.

#### VI E. PWS Source Area Protection Signs

This committee recommends that drinking water source signs be posted along roadways where appropriate, to alert travelers about the presence of the protection area and how to notify emergency personnel if a contamination event should occur.

Posting watershed boundary signs along roadways is also recommended.

#### VI F. Aquifer Protection Overlay Zones

This ordinance provides a tool for town managers and planners to consider development proposal’s impacts on town drinking water resources. The Source Water Protection Steering Committee will work to reduce the potential risk of contamination of the Midland-Lonaconing water resources by supporting the use of this ordinance to review future development projects

VI G. City & County Ordinances

The participants in this Source Water Protection Plan reserve the right to review any ordinances involving source water protection.

VII. Appendices

Contacts: MD Department of Mining, Frostburg  
MD Department of Natural Resources, Rob Northrup, 410.287.2918

We, the mayors of Lonaconing, Midland, and Barton, representing the aforementioned municipalities and elected officials agree with the contents of this Source Water Protection Plan for the Midland-Lonaconing Water System as it pertains to our communities.

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John W. Colburn, Jr., Mayor  
Town of Lonaconing

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Craig Alexander, Mayor  
Town of Midland

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John Bean, Mayor  
Town of Barton