

## Slatersville Public Water Supply Pollution Risk Assessment Results

**Slatersville Public Water Supply** (PWSID 1615614) is a community water system located in North Smithfield and serving an estimated 1,440 residents daily. The water system consists of the Halliwell Gravel Packed Well, the Slater Village Well, and the Tiftt Road Well. There are four other wells that are no longer in operation. Water is pumped from the active wells to a storage tank prior to distribution. The last sanitary survey was September 4, 1997. For further information contact Emanuel Alvarez, Superintendent, at PO Box 248 Main Street, Slatersville, RI 02876.

The **Source Protection Areas** (SPAs) for the three active wells are located in north-central North Smithfield (see Table 1 and Figure 2 on back). The SPA for the Slater Village well is a circle of radius 2,700 feet, covering about 520 acres, about half of which is Slatersville Reservoir, the rest being mostly commercial and low-density residential development. The SPA for the Halliwell School well is a small wedge of land extending North from the Halliwell School, mostly covered with low-density residential development.

The SPA for the Tiftt Road well is currently being developed by the US Geological Service. An interim "Source Assessment Area", based on USGS's work, includes the Holliston Sand and Gravel operation, the equestrian center, and the wooded area to the South and East of Slatersville Reservoir, and the residential area East of Trout Brook Pond to the Providence Pike.

### Sample Summary (for the previous five years)

- ▲ Bacteria has not been detected in any of the currently active wells.
- ▲ Nitrate levels in groundwater are higher than background levels, which may indicate contribution from human activity.
- ▲ No violations of the standards for other regulated contaminants have been identified. However, at the Slater Village well, there have been detections greater than half the levels considered acceptable by US EPA. This indicates the need for continued monitoring and may indicate the need for future management and/or treatment.

**This report** summarizes assessment results for this water system. The assessment identifies both known and potential sources of pollution occurring in the source



Susceptibility To Contamination		
Low	√ Moderate	High

**Note:** A ranking of **MODERATE** means that the water could become contaminated one day. Protection efforts are important to assure continued water quality.

protection area, and ranks the water source based on the likelihood of future contamination. The goal of this study is to help water suppliers, local officials, residents and consumers to learn more about source water protection. Because water quality is directly related to land use activities, everyone living or working in the source protection area has a role to play in keeping local water supplies safe.

### POLLUTION RISKS:

- ▲ Several roads are located near the wells, increasing the risk of hazardous material spills and road salt contamination.
- ▲ The gravel operation near the Tiftt Road well could present a threat to water quality if managed improperly.
- ▲ Sampling indicates that Slater Village and Halliwell School wells are vulnerable to contamination.

### PROTECTION OPPORTUNITIES:

- ▲ The majority of the source protection areas consist of undeveloped forestland and surface water.
- ▲ The town can implement land use controls and programs to protect these source protection areas from future high-intensity development.
- ▲ The town and supplier can work with farmers, residents and businesses to use best management practices in handling and disposing of potential contaminants.
- ▲ Residents can follow the guidelines on the back to reduce the impact of common household contaminants.

### Source Water

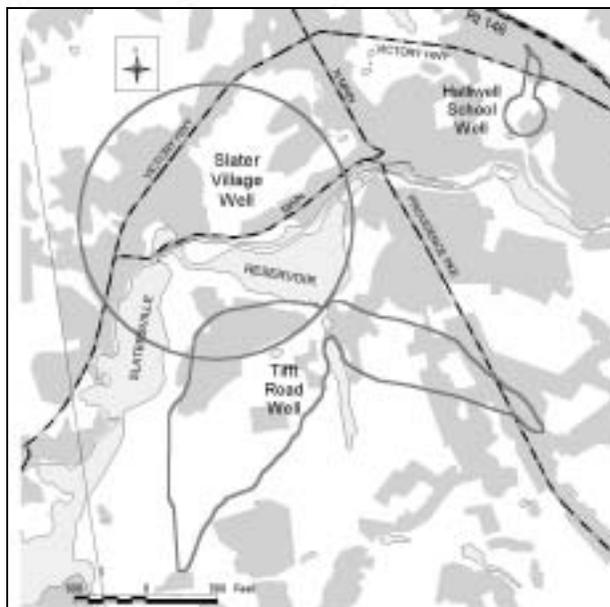
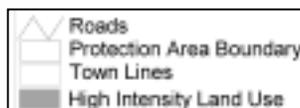
The focus of these assessments is on public drinking water supply "source" areas—the *wellhead protection area* that recharges a well or the *watershed* that drains to a surface water reservoir. Source water is untreated water from streams, lakes, reservoirs, or underground aquifers that is used to supply drinking water.

Source Water Assessments were conducted by the R.I. Department of Health in collaboration with the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension (URI CE) under the Rhode Island Source Water Assessment Program. This is part of a national initiative, established under the 1996 Amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), to foster more comprehensive protection of drinking water supplies at the local, state, and national levels.

**Table 1.** High-intensity land uses identified within the source water protection area that have the potential to contaminate drinking water.

Land Use Category	Associated Contaminants <sup>1</sup>	% of Protection Area
% Residential	Nutrients, Pathogens, VOCs, SOCs	27.1%
% Commercial, Industrial, Institutional	VOCs, SOCs, Solvents, Inorganics	7.7%
% Intensive Agriculture	Nutrients, Pathogens, VOCs, SOCs	3.4%

<sup>1</sup>Potential contaminants include nutrients (nitrates and phosphorus from fertilizers and human and animal waste), pathogens (bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms that can cause disease); volatile organic compounds (VOCs) found in fuels and solvents; synthetic organic compounds (SOCs), such as pesticides and plastics; and inorganics, including metals and other substances that can harm human health in high concentrations.



**Figure 2.** Areas of high-intensity land use are shown in dark gray.



## What You Can Do To Protect Water Quality

### Public Water Suppliers:

- ▲ Implement all recommendations in the latest Sanitary Survey.
- ▲ Protect undeveloped land within the wellhead or watershed protection area. Work with municipal boards and government as needed to implement land use protection measures and education programs.
- ▲ Post signs alerting public to Wellhead or Watershed Protection Area.
- ▲ Inspect water supply and protection area regularly for potential pollution sources.

### Municipal Boards and Government:

- ▲ Develop a groundwater protection plan and ordinance and supporting protective zoning regulations, such as limits of paved surface areas within new developments
- ▲ Incorporate groundwater and source water protection goals into the Comprehensive Plan.
- ▲ Implement on-site wastewater management or sewer maintenance plans and ordinances.
- ▲ Develop programs for land acquisition, conservation easements, or other critical lands protection.
- ▲ Adopt a stormwater management plan and ordinance.
- ▲ Establish a community education and outreach program that promotes residential pollution prevention and best management practices for the Public Works Department.

### Residents:

- ▲ Inspect septic systems annually and pump as needed.
- ▲ Replace/repair cesspools and failing septic systems.
- ▲ Reduce fertilizer and pesticide use.
- ▲ Reduce stormwater runoff by limiting paved surface areas and maintaining good vegetative cover.
- ▲ Pick up after your pets.
- ▲ Properly use, store, and dispose of hazardous products.
- ▲ Properly maintain motor vehicles and fuel storage tanks. Consider replacing underground storage tanks with properly contained above-ground tanks.
- ▲ Check all municipal laws that may apply.

### Farmers and Landowners: *Develop conservation plans on agricultural and forest lands that:*

- ▲ Reduce soil erosion, sediment, and stormwater runoff.
- ▲ Address proper nutrient, manure, pest, and irrigation water management.
- ▲ Address proper fuel storage and equipment maintenance.
- ▲ Conserve water, improve soil health, and protect surrounding natural resources.
- ▲ Check all federal and state laws that apply.

### Commercial and Industrial Businesses:

*Adhere to all laws, regulations, and recommended practices for:*

- ▲ Hazardous waste management
- ▲ Above- and underground storage tanks
- ▲ Wastewater discharge
- ▲ Floor drains
- ▲ Proper training for all employees

## For More Information

R.I. Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water Quality,  
 (401) 222-6867, [www.healthri.org/environment/dwq/Home.htm](http://www.healthri.org/environment/dwq/Home.htm)  
 URI CE Home\*A\*Syst Program (401) 874-5398, [www.uri.edu/ce/wq](http://www.uri.edu/ce/wq)  
 URI CE Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (401) 874-2138, [www.uri.edu/ce/wq](http://www.uri.edu/ce/wq)  
 Local Municipal Boards and Government, contact town/city hall  
 R.I. DEM Office of Water Resources (401) 222-4700, [www.state.ri.us/DEM/programs/benviiron/water/index.htm](http://www.state.ri.us/DEM/programs/benviiron/water/index.htm)  
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Conservation District Offices,  
 (401) 828-1300, [www.ni.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ni.nrcs.usda.gov)

