

Water Quality

Focus Area
A Quality World:
Bringing
About Change



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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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EPA The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in partnership with state and local governments, is responsible for improving and protecting the quality of our water resources. EPA administers nine comprehensive environmental laws. The Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act are the primary federal laws administered by EPA to protect water resources. Under them, many programs and a large percentage of EPA's budget support activities to protect, maintain, and restore water resources.

EPA has ten regional offices – Region VII is located in Kansas City, Kansas. It includes Missouri in its four-state region. Region VII's Water Management Division includes an Office of Groundwater Protection.

Agriculture and Nonpoint Source Pollution

Nonpoint source pollution is a major environmental concern in Missouri. Agricultural chemicals, sedimentation and animal wastes are some of the nonpoint source problems affecting Missouri's water resources.

The EPA, working in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Missouri and U.S. Departments of Agriculture, has started programs to help solve this problem.



How Does EPA Protect Water Resources?

The EPA makes sure that any federal regulations and standards on water quality are met and kept. To do that the EPA works in several ways:

- Develops general program guidelines for states and other agencies to follow.
- Establishes standards required by law. (For example, setting the maximum contaminant levels in public drinking water.)
- Conducts research and collects data, on a national level.
- Provides technical support and assistance to states.
- Establishes and implements a national groundwater protection strategy.
- Establishes wellhead protection programs and guidelines for states.

Some EPA Programs Offer Financial Assistance

States and other agencies receive these resources to help protect water resources. Some of the EPA programs that offer financial assistance include:



- The Underground Injection Control Program (UIC)
- The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)
- The Clean Lakes Program
- The Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program
- The Wellhead Protection Program

When Should You Contact EPA?

- If you have questions about the safety of drinking water, call the Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791.
- If you need information on pesticides, call the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network, 1-800-858-7378.
- If you are a fertilizer or pesticide dealer and have an environmental or regulatory question, call 1-800-368-5888.
- If you have questions about Emergency Planning or Community-Right-to-Know provisions, use the Hotline number 1-800-535-0202.

To contact your regional EPA office, call Public Affairs: 1-913-551-7003
Or Toll Free 1-800-223-0425

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