

# New Drinking Water Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Data

A seamless national layer including all available coverage for Sole Source Aquifers (SSA) that can be used in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is now available to other federal agencies, states and the public.

A Sole Source Aquifer Designation is one of the first source water protection programs in EPA's history. A sole or principal source aquifer supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer. The designation protects drinking water supplies in areas with few or no alternative sources, and where, if contamination were to occur, any other drinking water supply would be extremely expensive. The designation protects an area's ground water resource by requiring EPA to review certain proposed projects within the designated area. All proposed projects receiving federal funds are subject to review to ensure that they do not endanger the water source.

## ***Information Available***

For the first time, 89 polygons for the 78 sole source aquifers designated can be used to delineate GIS layers for stream flow zones, aquifer recharge areas and other features at the land surface, which are all important for the SSA designation. The GIS layers, indexes and the metadata ("data about data") can be found at <http://www.data.gov/geodata/g780496>.

The availability of data on the Sole Source Aquifer Program provides a vector polygon GIS layer showing available materials representing extents at the land surface related to the designated Sole Source Aquifers (SSA).

Information on SSAs is widely used in assessments under NEPA and this new SSA geospatial data set publicized through Data.gov will see extensive use by other federal agencies, contracting firms and the public. Additional information on the SSA program can be found at the following website: <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/sourcewater/protection/solesourceaquifer.cfm>. The SSA data is not considered sensitive drinking water data under the Office of Water 2005 Security Policy for drinking water data.

## ***Information on Data.gov***

The Data.gov Website was launched on May 21, 2009, by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). As part of the Administration's Open Government Initiative, each federal agency maintains an Open Government web page that contains a link to Data.gov (EPA's Open Government portal is located at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/open/innovations>). The purpose of Data.gov is to increase public access to high value, machine readable datasets generated by the Executive Branch of the federal government. As a priority Open Government Initiative for President Obama's administration, Data.gov increases the ability of the public to easily find, download, and use datasets that are generated and held by the federal government. Data.gov

provides descriptions of the federal datasets (metadata), information about how to access the datasets and tools that leverage government datasets.

If you have any questions about the Sole Source Aquifer Program, contact Beth Hall at 202-564-3883.

If you have any questions about the Sole Source Aquifer GIS data or supporting documentation, contact A. Roger Anzzolin at 202-564-4093.

Note: You may need to copy and paste the URL into an Internet browser to open the link.