

FIXED RADIUS DELINEATION APPROVAL

The 3,000 ft. fixed radius Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) delineation is allowed as an option considering the affordability for some smaller systems and the confidence of the WHPA boundaries in certain geologic conditions (see the Indiana Wellhead Protection Program document for more information). The 3,000 ft. fixed radius was designed for use by systems that pump less than 100,000 gallons per day (gpd) and therefore, it is not allowed for systems that pump 100,000 gpd or more.

To assure that systems using the fixed radius method of delineation are not pumping greater than 100,000 gpd, prior approval to use the fixed radius method is required. Prior approval is granted when it is shown that the combined pumping **capacities** of all wells for a facility are not greater than 100,000 gpd, **or** it is shown that the facility does not average over 100,000 gpd pumping.

Prior approval is granted by IDEM, but some information must be submitted for IDEM to make their determination. Information submitted to IDEM to receive approval to use the fixed radius method must include five years of monthly pumping data for the facility. If five years of pumping data is not available, consult IDEM for information on how to receive conditional approval to use fixed radius method of delineation.

IDEM will process the submitted information and will notify the PWSS in writing of their determination. This notification will serve as the prior approval to use the fixed radius method; a copy of which must be submitted with the WHP plan.

Mail information to:
Drinking Water Branch/Groundwater Section
Fixed Radius Delineation Approval
100 N. Senate Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

A Point to Consider

The purpose of a WHPA is to identify a wellfield management area where, owners/operators of potential contaminant sources are identified, best management practices are adopted, and public education is performed. While the initial cost of using a fixed radius may be less than other methods, the fixed radius WHPA will probably contain areas that have no impact on the water supply (based on time of travel) and will fail to identify areas that actually are contributing to the well. When this occurs, resources will be spent to protect areas that have no affect on the true WHPA, while no resources will be spent to protect other areas that are part of the true WHPA.

