

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ty Wick, President
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March 24, 1998

SPOKANE AREA BUSINESSES REQUESTED TO BECOME INVOLVED IN CITIZEN PROCESS FOR WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAM

Approximately 2,400 letters were mailed on Monday, March 23rd to Spokane area businesses. The letters provide notification to the businesses that they are in a location over the Spokane Aquifer that has been defined as a wellhead protection area. Wellhead Protection areas are those areas where drinking water wells get their water from the aquifer.

Along with each notification, business's also received additional information about the program. This information informs the business about the program, and how they can become involved in the citizen process. Businesses are encouraged to contact any of the individuals listed in the letter if they desire to obtain further information. They are also encouraged to become involved in the public process by attending one of the upcoming public meetings and/or by joining one of several focus groups.

Five evening (7-9 p.m.) public meetings are scheduled to provide further details concerning the program. The locations of the meetings are:

Wednesday, April 1 at Mead High School's West Cafeteria
Thursday, April 2 at East Valley High School's Cafeteria
Wednesday, April 15 at Ferris High School's Cafeteria
Thursday, April 16 at North Pines Middle School's Cafeteria
Wednesday, April 22 at North Central High School's Cafeteria

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WATER DISTRICTS UNITE TO PROTECT SPOKANE'S DRINKING WATER

For Immediate Release

Friday, June 04, 1999

**Contact: Ty Wick
Spokane Joint Aquifer Board
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Spokane, WA—In an unprecedented move, 17 local water districts from the Spokane area have joined forces to protect Spokane's drinking water. These water utilities have become "***United for Clean Drinking Water***".

Operating under the name "**Spokane Aquifer Joint Board**", the utility members are tasked with providing safe drinking water for over 110,000 residents within the Spokane area. Ty Wick, the first President of the SAJB, initiated the unification of the water utilities. "It makes more sense to consolidate our efforts, rather than have each of us deal with the same issues in our own districts," Wick said.

The first project undertaken by the Board is to establish a wellhead protection program for over 170 wells in 90 different locations. These local water districts are working together to collect and evaluate information that will be used to develop locally consistent strategies to safeguard the drinking water wells within the EPA designated "sole source aquifer" of the Spokane Aquifer. And although the requirements for this program have been mandated by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the Board members understand the responsibility to provide safe drinking water, now and into the future, and are willing to work together to obtain this goal for Spokane's citizens.

"SUPERMAN EYES" WILL HELP DETERMINE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SPOKANE AQUIFER

For Immediate Release

Friday, June 04, 1999

**Contact: Ty Wick
Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
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Spokane, WA—Researchers will use "Superman Eyes" in their efforts to probe the mysteries of the Spokane Valley Aquifer, as a part of the wellhead protection program for the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board (SAJB). The aquifer lies approximately 100 feet below the surface of the Spokane Valley. This aquifer is the sole-source of Spokane's drinking water.

Engineers will use "Superman Eyes", technically known as seismic reflection profiling, to better define the physical characteristics of the aquifer. This technique allows engineers to "look" at underground formations, without actually digging or drilling a hole.

"Superman Eyes" work like sonar. Electronic "noises" or sound waves are directed downward from the surface. As the "noise" travels through the sand, gravel and bedrock it changes "speed". From these speed changes, underground formation can be determined.

combined with existing data. Each new piece of information allows researchers a more detailed understanding of our aquifer, how it operates, it's sensitive areas, and it's future as the sole supplier of Spokane's drinking water.

The Board's data collection activities will continue through November.

The Board meets the third Thursday of each month in the offices of Vera Water and Power, located at 601 N. Evergreen in the Spokane Valley.