



Examples of How USGS Science is Informing Groundwater Quality Management Decisions

"The rigorous scientific approach of the USGS NAWQA Program and the resulting understanding of groundwater quality in the High Plains aquifer will be invaluable for local and statewide management toward sustainable groundwater resources of this important aquifer system."—**Jim Goeke, Professor and Research Hydrogeologist, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension**

"The contaminant data and predictive models from the NAWQA program for private and municipal water systems were essential for filling in the gaps in our understanding of the geography and timing of contaminant concentrations. Without this type of information, it's difficult to interpret what locations and populations are at risk from hazards such as arsenic and nitrate in drinking water, making it challenging for health scientists to promote risk reduction activities. A focus on continued NAWQA monitoring will be important and changes in population, land use, and climate affect our water resources."—**Matt Cahillane, NH Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Public Health Tracking Program**

"The combination of NAWQA groundwater quality and local data has been invaluable for studies of chloride, nitrate, and arsenic problems in Illinois. The NAWQA studies add to our understanding of the spatial distribution of many contaminants and provide a National context for local groundwater issues and research. The high-quality data collected by the NAWQA program are part of the understanding the fate of contaminants in groundwater systems in Illinois."—**Dr. Walton R. Kelly, Head of Groundwater Section, Illinois State Water Survey**

"USGS, through the NAWQA Program, has extensively studied the movement of nutrients through groundwater. We look forward to using this information as we work with state and local partners to implement practices on the land that have the greatest benefit to the quality of our local and Bay waters."—**Nick DiPasquale, EPA Director of the Chesapeake Bay Program**

"High quality water resources are vital to the health and environmental and economic sustainability of our communities. NAWQA studies help to inform the EPA's Water Protection Division to reduce threats to our water supplies today and to protect our groundwater resources for the future."—**Victoria Binetti, Associate Division Director, Water Protection Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3**

"The USGS NAWQA Program is an important resource to Florida utilities using groundwater as a source for potable water. The Program gathers vital data on the health of the Floridan Aquifer that is a primary source of potable water to the State of Florida. The NAWQA Program also provides groundwater quality data and studies on emerging groundwater contaminants that further advance our collective understanding of this complex aquifer system."—**John Troutt, Environmental Monitoring Manager at Tampa Bay Water**

"Monitoring water quality is necessary to gauge the effectiveness of management practices that impact water quality issues in other States and adjust our water quality monitoring needs accordingly. The NAWQA data within our State provides useful water-quality information that helps us better understand our complex aquifer systems"—**Richard Hicks, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Ground Water Management Section**

"USGS NAWQA studies and research of groundwater quality and the connection to surface-water quality are changing our understanding of how the natural water system of the Mississippi Embayment functions. The region must find better ways to manage our water and USGS research is absolutely essential to that goal."—**Dean Pennington, Executive Director of the Yazoo Mississippi Delta Joint Water Management District**

"The USGS NAWQA program provides the power of knowledge. Results of NAWQA studies are an invaluable resource for public health officials, water and land use planners, and the community that relies on Denver Basin groundwater as a vital source of drinking water."—**Hope Dalton, Water Specialist, Tri-County Health Department**

"Results from the NAWQA groundwater investigations provide an excellent overview of aquifer conditions in the Southwest that will prove invaluable in my ambient groundwater studies in Arizona."—**Douglas Towne, Groundwater Hydrologist, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality**

"NAWQA publications do a great job of presenting the overall groundwater quality issues with explanations for the Southwest. USGS NAWQA groundwater research addresses both the problems and reason for the problems, providing a generalized view of the basin-fill aquifers in the Southwest."—**Bart Farris, Environmental Scientist, New Mexico Environmental Department, Ground Water Quality Bureau**

"The NAWQA study results provide Hawaii with an important database describing the status of water quality in aquifers on Oahu. Many of Oahu's groundwaters have been subjected to only limited monitoring in the past, so these data will represent a baseline to which results from future studies can be compared. Reports on chemical contaminants in aquifers are particularly useful because these data are expensive to obtain and thus rarely collected. Similar data sets from the other Hawaiian islands are sorely needed."—**Dr. June Harrigan, Hawaii Department of Health, Environmental Planning Office**

"The USGS report highlights the importance of understanding differences in the naturally occurring conditions of the nation's principal aquifers to assuring quality drinking water for the more than 170 million groundwater users."—**Kevin B. McCray, Chief Executive Officer, National Ground Water Association**

For More Information:

The national summary report of the quality of the Nation's groundwater and nine associated reports that describe regional-scale assessments of groundwater quality in about 30 of the most heavily used principal aquifers across the Nation are available at: http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/pubs/prin_aq/

