



# **National Pesticide Survey**

## **How EPA Will Use The National Pesticide Survey Results**

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its five-year National Survey of Pesticides in Drinking Water Wells (NPS). This fact sheet provides an overview of how EPA will use the NPS results. The results will allow EPA to understand the extent of the problem of contamination of drinking water wells from a national perspective.

### **How Results Will Be Used**

#### **Under the Safe Drinking Water Act**

- Identify chemicals for future regulation (i.e., support the development of new Maximum Contaminant Levels).
- Identify the range of pesticide concentrations found in community water systems to help determine the feasibility of drinking water treatment.
- Determine appropriate monitoring requirements for public water supplies.
- Support analyses of cost and risk reduction impacts of new regulations on water suppliers and customers.
- Improve assessments by water suppliers of the vulnerability of their ground-water resources to contamination by pesticides and nitrate.
- Identify conditions where wellhead protection programs are needed.
- Identify steps that should be taken under wellhead protection programs to prevent contamination of water supplies.
- Determine whether legislative changes are needed to improve protection of public and private drinking water supplies.
- Establish and maintain working relationships with the States to build and facilitate implementation of State drinking water programs related to pesticides and ground water.

#### **Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act**

Identify candidates, set priorities, and make decisions on special reviews and restricted use, such as label restrictions.

Identify pesticides for which EPA will require the registrant to conduct monitoring surveys or other studies to address concerns about the chemicals' potential to leach into ground water.

- Identify factors that influence contamination of wells by pesticides and use the information to develop guidance for State pesticide management plans.
- Identify areas where full scale State management plans are required for pesticides subject to regulation under the State management plan approach.
- Work with States to focus State monitoring and regulation of pesticides, and State training and certification programs.
- Improve monitoring and environmental indicator strategies.

#### **Pollution Prevention**

- Learn if there are some early warning signals to indicate where pesticide or nitrate contamination of drinking water may be a problem in the future. Use the information to set a pollution prevention strategy.
- Identify additional information that should be gathered by pesticide and fertilizer distributors, formulators and users to identify prevention control points and to serve as an early warning system for potential ground-water contamination.

#### **Research**

- Work to reduce monitoring costs by learning about the relationship between the results of one-time sampling compared to repeated sampling at the same well.
- Improve multimedia risk assessments of pesticide and nitrate exposures.

#### **Where to Go for More Information**

This fact sheet is part of a series of NPS outreach materials, fact sheets and reports. The following additional fact sheets are available through EPA's Public Information Center (401 M Street SW, Washington DC 20460, 202-382-2080):

<b>Project Summary</b>	<b>Summary Results</b>	<b>Survey Design</b>
<b>Analytical Methods</b>	<b>Survey Analytes</b>	<b>Glossary</b>
<b>Quality Assurance/ Quality Control</b>	<b>Fact Sheet for each detected analyte</b>	

Additional information on the Survey and on pesticides in general can be obtained from the following sources:

U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791 (In Washington, DC – 382-5533) Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Eastern Time	Information on regulation of pesticides in drinking water
National Pesticide Telecommunications Network 1-800-858-7378 24 hours a day	Information on health effects and safe handling of pesticides
U.S. EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) Docket Public Information Branch (H7506C) 401 M Street, SW Washington, DC 20460 Telephone: (703) 557-2805	Background documents for Survey (available for review)

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National Technical Information Service (NTIS)  
5285 Port Royal Road  
Springfield, VA 22161  
(703) 487-4650

Copies of the  
NPS Phase I Report  
(available 1991) and  
NPS Phase II Report  
(when available)

If you are concerned about the presence of pesticides and nitrate in your private water well, contact your local or State health department. Other experts in your State environmental agency or agriculture and health department may also be helpful to you. If you receive your drinking water from a community water system and have questions about your water quality, contact your local community water system owner/operator or the State water supply agency.

## U.S. EPA Regional Office Contacts

Region	Drinking Water	Pesticides	Ground Water
I (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)	Water Quality Branch (617) 565-3531	Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances (617) 565-3273	Ground-Water Management and Water Supply Branch (617) 565-3610
II (NJ, NY, PR, VI)	Drinking/Ground-Water Protection Branch (212) 264-1800	Pesticides and Toxic Substances Branch (212) 340-6765	Drinking/Ground-Water Protection Branch (212) 264-1800
III (DE, DC, MD, PA, WV, VA)	Drinking Water/Ground-Water Protection Branch (215) 597-8227	Toxics and Pesticides Branch (215) 597-8588	Drinking Water/Ground-Water Protection Branch (215) 597-8227
IV (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)	Water Quality Management Branch (404) 347-2126	Pesticides and Toxics Substances Branch (404) 347-5201	Ground-Water Protection Branch (404) 347-3866
V (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)	Safe Drinking Water Branch (312) 353-2151	Pesticides and Toxic Substances Branch (312) 886-6006	Office of Ground Water (312) 886-1490
VI (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)	Water Quality Management Branch (214) 655-7135	Pesticides and Toxics Branch (214) 655-7239	Water Quality Management Branch (214) 655-7135
VII (IA, KS, MO, NE)	Drinking Water Branch (913) 551-7032	Toxics and Pesticides Branch (913) 551-7020	Office of Ground-Water Protection (913) 551-7033
VIII (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)	Drinking Water Branch (303) 293-1430	Toxic Substances Branch (303) 293-1730	Ground-Water Branch (303) 293-1796
IX (AZ, CA, HI, NV)	Drinking Water Branch (415) 465-2110	Pesticides and Toxics Branch (415) 556-5628	Water Quality Planning and Standards Branch (415) 465-2181
X (AK, ID, WA, OR)	Drinking Water Branch (206) 442-4092	Pesticides and Toxic Substances Branch (206) 442-1198	Drinking Water Branch (206) 442-4092