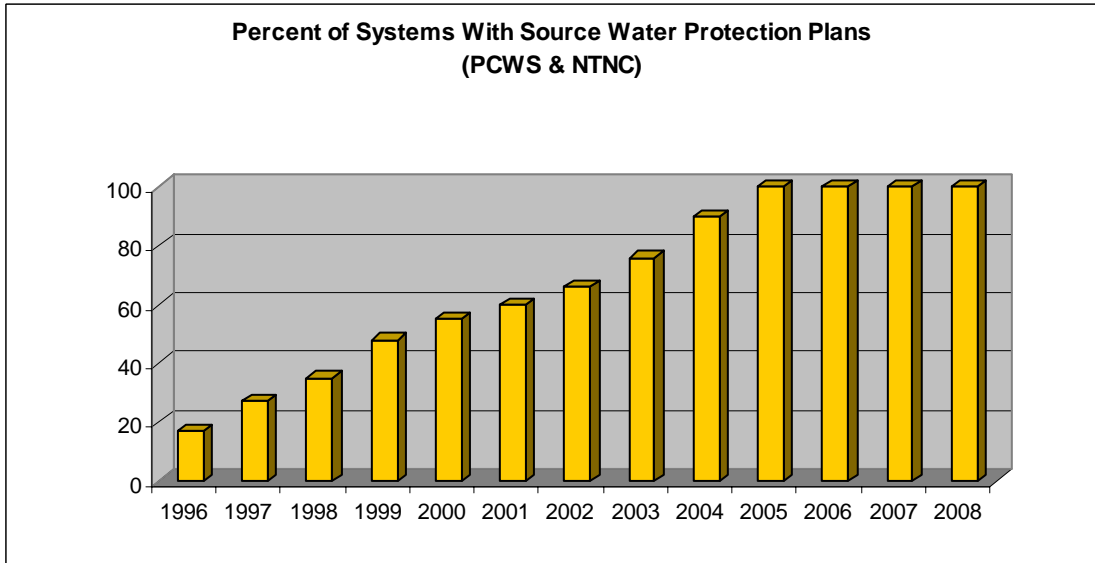


Results

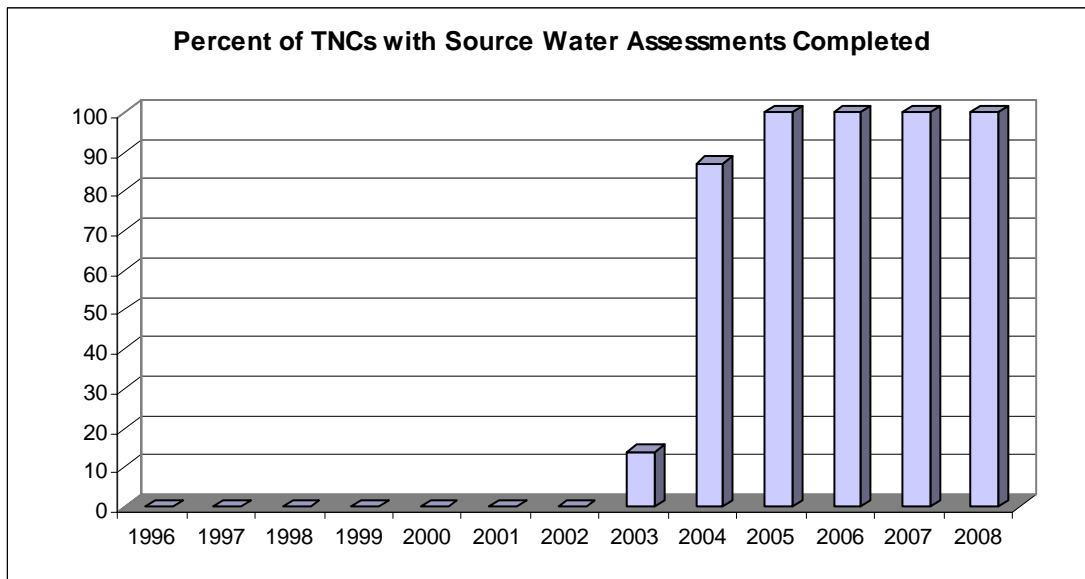
Increased protection and development of safe drinking water sources through outreach, permitting, and investigation of the resource.

Key Indicators

Percent of Systems with Source Water Protection Plans.



Number of TNCs with Source Water Assessments Completed.



Story Behind the Baseline Performance

Vermont has had a long-standing program for the protection and development of drinking water sources. This includes a source permitting program, a wellhead and source protection program, an active interagency groundwater coordination committee, and a well driller licensing program. The program faces challenges in the lack of broad studies on groundwater characteristics, naturally occurring contaminants, and aquifer mapping. The program is considered a national leader on source water protection. Current Staffing levels will could potentially delay or impede source protection outreach and assistance.

Strategies

Education and Technical Assistance

2006-2008

Proposed accomplishments and performance measures are on track.

Provide field visits, toll-free telephone number, planning meetings, educational brochures, and website information. Provide evaluation of potential sources of contamination for their potential to impact public water supplies for projects requiring state permits. A database of over 98,000 water well locations in GIS linked to well completion reports provides contaminant investigators, home owners, realtors, and many others, with critical subsurface information. Provide GIS maps of source protection areas and major sources of potential contamination to project developers and reviewers. Serve as a resource on groundwater protection issues, groundwater education, drought issues, water conservation, and general outreach.

Coordinate with other Agency Divisions to leverage protection of groundwater and drinking water in particular, through prioritizing UST inspection in SPAs, and facilitate the integration of water system's source protection plan with the states watershed protection efforts for water systems located within each of the states 16 watershed areas with the Water Quality Division.

Assist municipalities to develop Groundwater Protection Ordinances for existing and future potential source protection areas and for significant aquifers.

For optimal Source Protection Plan effectiveness assistance will continue to be provided beyond the completion of the initial program. Source Protection Plan updates are required and reviewed on a three year cycle.

Provide coordination, facilitation, administration, and technical support for the Groundwater Coordination Committee, particularly for groundwater reclassifications and updates to the Groundwater Protection Rule and Strategy

Review Act 250 applications for groundwater and drinking water protection issues and provide appropriate comment.

Attend and participate in the Groundwater Managers Workshop Meetings sponsored by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission. Attend and participate in Groundwater Protection Council meetings and conferences.

Participate as a member of the On-Site Technical Advisory Committee regarding issues of on-site septic waste disposal, groundwater protection, and potable water supply development.

Provide technical assistance for implementation of the Federal Groundwater Rule when it is promulgated.

Grants and Loans

2006-2008

Proposed accomplishments and performance measures are on track.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) provides loans for purchase of land and/or conservation easements for source protection, construction of sources, and source improvements.

The Water Supply Division will continue to partner with technical service providers (such as Vermont Rural Water Association) to provide direct assistance to public water systems.

Regulation, Compliance Assistance, and Enforcement

2006-2008

Proposed accomplishments and performance measures are on track, except as noted below.

Water Supply Rule, Chapter 21; Groundwater Protection Rule and Strategy; Well Driller Licensing Rule; Wastewater and Potable Water Supply Rule.

Issue State Permits for new proposed or existing modified public water sources and pursue enforcement for failure to obtain a permit.

Send NOAV's to water systems for failure to provide source protection plan updates during their three year cycle.

Prioritize enforcement efforts for Public Community and Non-Transient, Non-Community water systems that have not complied with Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water determinations.

Implementation of the Federal Groundwater Rule - The Federal Groundwater Rule has been delayed on being promulgated. The likely date is now proposed for sometime this winter.

Monitoring, Assessment and Direct Services

2006

Proposed accomplishments and performance measures are on track.

Provide improved Source Protection Area delineations for sources with a default radius.

2006-2008

Provide direct assistance through the Groundwater Coordinating Committee for Groundwater reclassification.

Performance Measures (calendar year)

<u>Performance Measures</u>		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of Source Protection Plans Approved	Projected	60	92	92	92	92	92	92	65	40	10	5	2
	Actual	54	92	43	37	43	66	94	29	28			
Number of Groundwater Committee Meetings	Projected								10	10	10	10	10
	Actual	11	7	6	5	6	7	7	10	8			
Number of Source Permits Issued	Projected	25	25	20	20	20	20	20	15	15	15	15	15
	Actual	22	15	16	14	7	8	19	11	23			
% of Source Permits meeting PEP	Projected							50%	60%	98%	98%	98%	98%
	Actual	92%	69%	67%	100%	86%	40%	71%	80%				
Number of GWUDI Determinations	Projected			75	200	200	200	200	350	150	10	5	2
	Actual	117	117	245	131	97	72	98	353	75			

Proposed Accomplishments

Proposed accomplishments and performance measures are on track, except as noted below.

Source Water Protection – Staff intends to provide technical assistance to water systems to improve their implementation of source protection activities. (i.e. groundwater protection ordinance, closure and abandon wells, and groundwater reclassification)

Source Water Permits – The Water Supply Division has assumed responsibility for issuing all Non-Transient, Non-Community public water source and construction permits. These permits were previously issued by the DEC Regional Offices of the Wastewater

Management Division. This change was implemented to enhance communications with the permittee and for permit issuing consistency.

Highlights

Despite numerous changes in personnel, and loss of program staff, the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) has been effectively completed for all public water systems in the state. Only a handful remain, and those are either in enforcement for non-compliance, or are under a compliance schedule. In a visionary manner in satisfying the SWAP requirements, the State of Vermont chose to require implementation of the SWAP results through development of a Source Protection Plan (SPP) for all public community and non-transient, non-community water systems. This plan covers 4 major areas: 1) delineation of the source recharge area by a mapped source protection area (SPA), 2) inventory and assessment of potential sources of contamination (PSOC) within the SPA, 3) an active plan by the water system to manage the PSOCs, and 4) a contingency plan in the event of source water contamination or water outage. This SPP is required to be reviewed and update every three years. Vermont now leads the nation in substantially implementing source water protection by having its public water systems take an active role in protecting the sources for their drinking water supplies.