



**What's Not Always Seen...**  
**By: Don Craig, Deputy Director**

**June 2017  
Newsletter**

Water and wastewater personnel in small rural communities and districts, are often times unfortunately on the "back burner" of many of the general public, customers, or even some board members' interest or concerns. Never or rarely getting the credit they deserve, when it comes to providing and maintaining the essential services of those utilities they are working to keep running... basically every day of the year.

Too many times, those same people are the ones who make comments such as, "All I do is see you 'guys' riding around in your truck...do you ever work?" I always wondered when someone made a comment like that to me, working many years ago in my hometown.... "Do they not understand, I need to 'ride' in the truck, to get to the work I'm doing, at various locations around the town?"

Then too, I used to think to myself, where are those people, on a frigid winter night, when we were out fixing a broken water main, to insure the supply of water for their continued use and needs. And, all the time knowing, what you hope takes an hour or so, inevitably turned into multiple hours of working in extremely harsh and freezing conditions; while those who are less than appreciative of

your efforts, are cozy in their bed, or sitting in front of a fire watching a ball game.

It's a little funny now, but I seem to remember that looking for warmth, in those situations, was best found by getting in the hole and tackling the problem, because it was always warmer there than out on top. To this day, I still feel a chill run through my bones, when I think of those many, many similar "colder than cold" winter nights endured through the nine years working there, before I started with Illinois Rural Water Association.

Your job is extremely important, to say the least. It's just unfortunate, that accolades are not given out as readily as negative comments. It's the nature of many people... sorry to say.

The bottom line is, those type of people do not truly 'see' the good you do, because they do not understand, know about, or even care about those things. And, the fact is.... they should.

It takes special and dedicated individuals to work in the water and wastewater industry. To provide for safe drinking water, and to insure the safeness of the effluents into our waterways, is without a doubt, worthy of being 'seen' and appreciated in more ways than one!

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**IRWA'S MISSION STATEMENT**

**“Protecting and preserving the water and wastewater resources of Rural Illinois through education, representation and on-site technical assistance”**



**The IRWA Office will be closed the following upcoming holidays:**

**Tuesday, July 4, 2017—Independence Day**

**Monday, September 4, 2017—Labor Day**



**By: Mark Mitchell, Source Water Protection Specialist**



There is a process involved in developing and implementing a maximum setback zone whereby the IEPA grants “technical adequacy” to the applying unit of local government. Technical adequacy is simply the determination by IEPA that your wells meet the requirements to extend the zone of protection out to at least 1,000’ radius from the well head. In certain instances, maximum setback zones can extend out to 2,500’ if your wells utilize an alluvial aquifer and are within 1000’ of a public waterway.

It is important to note that for the 2,500’ maximum setback zone only, new potential routes are prohibited within the entire 2,500’ zone, unless the route’s owner gets an exception from the Illinois Pollution Control Board. An exact definition of a new potential route can be found in Section 3.350 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, but in general includes sand & gravel mining and all types of injection wells. If you think your wells meet these criteria, it would be well worth your time and effort to look at utilizing this tool rattling around in the bottom of your toolbox. All maximum setback zones can be a simple radius or can be irregularly shaped to “exempt” an area if necessary.

**What does a Maximum Setback Zone mean to you and how might it benefit your public water supply?**

Some of the benefits are as follows:

- Prevention of contamination by siting restrictions up to 1000’ radius of the well
- Regulatory control of new potential sources and existing potential sources
- Restriction of siting new potential primary sources
- Awareness of the sensitivity of the area of influence (zone) to contamination
- Local control and ordinances
- Extended “compliance point” for remediation sites to meet groundwater quality standards

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency’s (IEPA) Ground Water Protection Act provides minimum setbacks for all public water supply wells in Illinois. This setback provides protection for public water supply wells by prohibiting the siting of new potential primary sources, potential secondary sources and potential routes within a 200 or 400 feet radius of a wellhead. The minimum setback

radius is determined by the IEPA, depending on the vulnerability to surficial contaminants.

A very good resource to find out which type of aquifer your wells utilize would be the IEPA’s Source Water Assessment Fact Sheet. On the first page, each of your wells (that were permitted when the Fact Sheet was written) will be listed by local number, IEPA five-digit number, depth and also the minimum setback zone.

The first step is to determine, by equation, the lateral area of influence for your wells. The lateral area of influence is the outer boundary of the cone of depression of a pumping well. If the lateral area of influence is determined to be larger than the minimum setback zone of that well, then the well meets the IEPA requirements to be granted technical adequacy.

The next step is to fill out a maximum setback zone application. Along with this application, a map should be included to show the surface area that will be protected by the maximum setback zone ordinance.

Included in the application packet should be a draft of the maximum setback zone ordinance which can be obtained from the IEPA. After IEPA’s review and granting of technical adequacy, the applying unit of government can then adopt the zoning ordinance through legal measures, just as they would any other ordinance.

This is a very brief overview of maximum setback zones and how they may relate to your public water supply and help you protect your water supply from contamination. The easiest thing for you to do with all you already have on your plate is to contact the Source Water Protection Specialist at IRWA and we can explore if there might be a benefit for your water supply.



# PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

## ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

### 14TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

**WHEN: FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2017**

**10:00 A.M. SHOT GUN START**

**PIPER GLEN GOLF CLUB  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR ANOTHER FUN FILLED DAY WITH PEERS!**  
Look for more information this month on our website at [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org) and in the mail.

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**VIDEO INSPECTION SERVICES**

Video inspection technology can help you identify and prioritize maintenance issues, while improving service and reducing emergency maintenance costs.



IRWA is excited to introduce our new Video Inspection Service to our members. The normal fee for this service is \$350.00 for small projects, larger projects requiring more than 1 day will be based on cost per foot.

A contract must be signed in advance of the inspection. Upon completion, your system will be invoiced for the services and will also receive a detailed report including diagrams of the inspection features, and a DVD for your references.

For more information, or to schedule an inspection of your system, please call our office at 217-287-2115 or visit our website: [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org)