Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Bureau of Environmental Remediation, Remedial Section

State Water Plan Contamination Remediation Program

SWP Investigations Result in Alternative Water Supplies for Rural Communities

The State Water Plan Contamination/Remediation Program (SWP) has conducted several investigations that resulted in providing impacted residences with an alternative safe drinking water supply. The following list of sites summarize instances where a SWP investigation prompted a responsible party to connect impacted residences with an alternative supply.

Herkimer

The Herkimer Co-op property was identified as a nitrate contamination source during a ground water investigation. Data generated through the investigation indicated several sources of nitrate impact in ground water including non-point sources north of town. Elevated nitrate levels appeared to be migrating south and impacting private water wells within the city.

During additional investigation, on-site sampling identified a fertilizer storage area at the Co-op as an additional nitrate source. Subsequently, the Co-op connected the impacted residence to the rural water district (RWD) serving Herkimer. In addition to being a nitrate source, the Co-op has been identified as a BTEX source which resulted in the connection of another residence to the RWD.

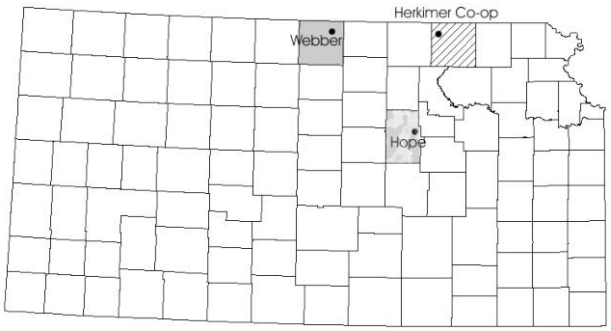
Webber

Carbon tetrachloride was detected in a domestic well in February 1996. A Site Reconnaissance and Evaluation (SRE) Investigation in February 1997 by KDHE. During the SRE, carbon tetrachloride was detected in one private drinking water well. A Comprehensive Investigation was completed by the State Water Plan Unit of KDHE in 1998.

The CI revealed carbon tetrachloride levels of 15.1 ppb in a private domestic water well, downgradient of a former CCC/USDA grain bin site. Results of the CI prompted the USDA to connect the residence to the local Jewell rural water district.

Hope

Hope PWS Well #10 was disconnected from the public water supply system in 1986 after carbon tetrachloride was detected in samples collected from the well. The town was subsequently connected to the Herington PWS system in 1990.

Investigation efforts conducted by KDHE's State Water Plan have been unable to identify a point source for carbon tetrachloride contamination in ground water. The carbon tetrachloride plume is located near both a local co-op and a former USDA/CCC grain storage facility.

During KDHE's investigation, a contaminated private drinking water well was identified. As a result of the identification of this impacted residence during the KDHE investigation, the USDA connected this residence to the public water supply system to ensure the residents have a permanent safe drinking water supply.