

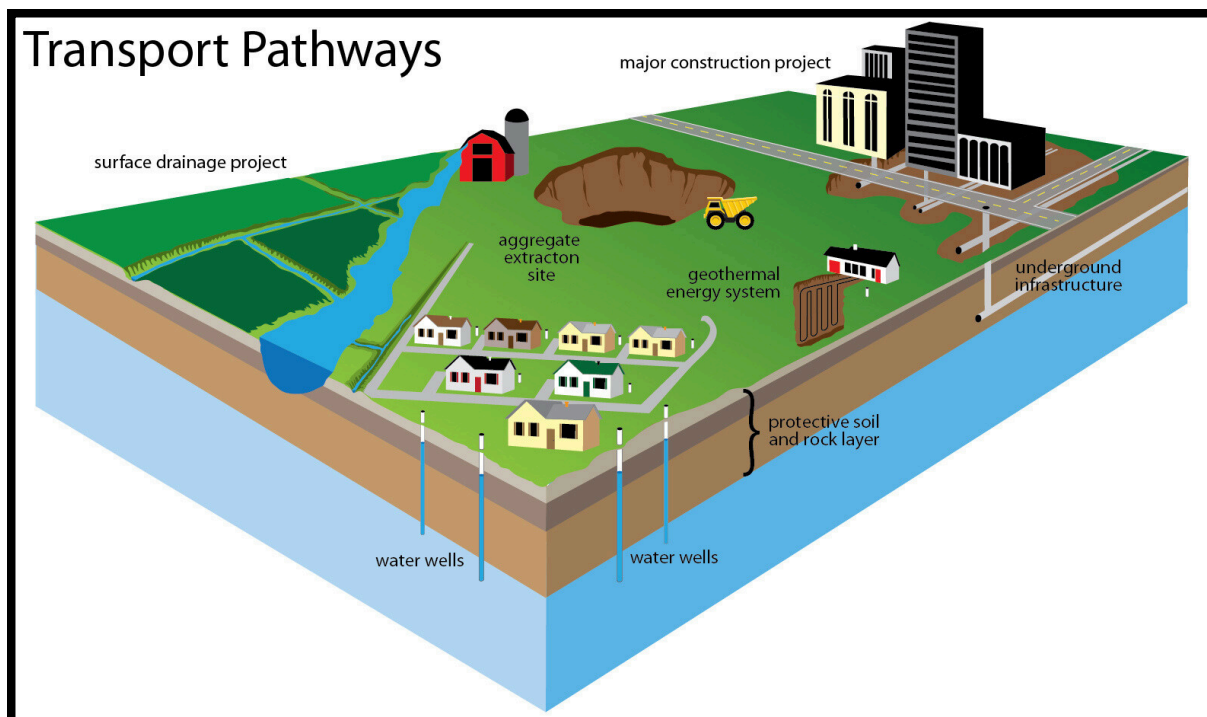


Transport Pathways

What is a Transport Pathway?

A transport pathway is a land condition created by humans, that allows a faster or widespread distribution of contaminants into water sources. Transport pathways come in a variety of forms including, but are not limited to, surface drainage projects, damaged or improperly maintained drinking water wells, ditches, swales, sewers, storm drains, and aggregate extraction sites.

Transport pathways increase the risk of contamination because they provide a bypass of the natural protective layers of soil and rock that helps filter water. Although transport pathways are not identified as drinking water threats, contaminants can be carried through these pathways and negatively impact drinking water sources.



How Do Transport Pathways Effect Me?

Transport pathways can negatively effect private and municipal drinking water sources. As a private system owner, you are responsible for ensuring your water source is safe for consumption. However, if you are located within an area near the municipal source of drinking water called a Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) or an Intake Protection Zone (IPZ), you may be subjected to policies to protect drinking water sources in the Quinte area.



What is the Purpose of Transport Pathway Notifications?

The Quinte Source Protection Authority (SPA) must be notified about projects that have the potential to create transport pathways because the project may endanger the raw water supply of a municipal drinking water system.

By reviewing project proposals, the SPA will determine whether or not the transport pathways would impact the protection zones (WHPAs and IPZs) by increasing the vulnerability, or expanding the boundaries. Both changes would result in new areas where the Quinte Source Protection Plan would apply. Additionally, the evaluation from the SPA will inform the proponent about all of the policies from the Quinte Source Protection Plan that apply to the area of interest.



Decommissioning and Upgrading Wells

Private drinking water wells can become transport pathways if they are not maintained for future use, have been abandoned without being properly decommissioned, or have been damaged. If a well is not maintained correctly, they can allow surface water runoff and contaminants to bypass the natural filtration layers of the soil and entire directly into the groundwater supply.

Contact a Licensed Well Contractor to upgrade or decommission damaged or abandoned wells.