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Local Water Supplier Joins State Program to Protect Water Sources

The Northeast Texas Municipal Water District Public Water System Number 1580065, located in Marion County, has joined the state's Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program. This free Program allows local water suppliers to partner with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to find ways to proactively protect their water supplies from potential sources of contamination.

The SWAP Program gives local water suppliers the information and tools they need to work with their communities to protect their water sources. It is important that the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District Public Water System has clean source water so it can meet certain standards in order to provide water to the community.

As part of the SWAP Program, engineers and geologists contracted by TCEQ will perform an inventory of the system's current sources of drinking water, such as surface water intakes. No matter where drinking water comes from - lakes, rivers, streams, or aquifers - all water sources are vulnerable to contaminants. Contaminants can come from a variety of businesses and everyday activities in the community.

Potential sources of contamination within the community, such as underground storage tanks or hazardous waste sites, will be identified during a site visit to the community. Information from the site visit will be shared with the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District Public Water System so that the community can take proactive steps to protect their drinking water, if necessary.

Once the inventory is complete, a list of preventative measures known as best management practices will be developed for the community's specific needs. Information on state and federal resources will be provided, if needed, to improve the system's water supply.

By participating in the Texas' SWAP program, Northeast Texas Municipal Water District is joining more than 500 participating water utilities who have taken proactive steps to protect their water supply since 1996! More information on the program is available at www.SWAPTexas.org.