

Perspectives on the State of Potable Groundwater Quality Monitoring in Rural Alberta

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Abstract

Programs for monitoring groundwater quality are essential tools for helping to ensure the provision of safe drinking water. The groundwater sources in the rural areas assessed are generally not as extensively monitored as supplies for larger centres. In general, there appears to be a growing trend for economic constraints to significantly reduce the frequency and number of analyses conducted for chemical contaminants. In addition, there is a need for microbial parameters to be more closely monitored. This paper provides a perspective on the analytical programs established in rural regions of the Canadian Prairies and compares them to those of rural regions in the United States and Australia/New Zealand.