

455E.5 Groundwater protection policies.

1. It is the policy of the state to prevent further contamination of groundwater from any source to the maximum extent practical.
2. The discovery of any groundwater contamination shall require appropriate actions to prevent further contamination. These actions may consist of investigation and evaluation or enforcement actions if necessary to stop further contamination as required under chapter 455B.
3. All persons in the state have the right to have their lawful use of groundwater unimpaired by the activities of any person which render the water unsafe or unpotable.
4. All persons in the state have the duty to conduct their activities so as to prevent the release of contaminants into groundwater.
5. Documentation of any contaminant which presents a significant risk to human health, the environment, or the quality of life shall result in either passive or active cleanup. In both cases, the best technology available or best management practices shall be utilized. The department shall adopt rules which specify the general guidelines for determining the cleanup actions necessary to meet the goals of the state and the general procedures for determining the parties responsible by July 1, 1989. Until the rules are adopted, the absence of rules shall not be raised as a defense to an order to clean up a source of contamination.
6. Adopting health-related groundwater standards may be of benefit in the overall groundwater protection or other regulatory efforts of the state. However, the existence of such standards, or lack of them, shall not be construed or utilized in derogation of the groundwater protection goal and protection policies of the state.
7. The department shall take actions necessary to promote and assure public confidence and public awareness. In pursuing this goal, the department shall make public the results of groundwater investigations.
8. Education of the people of the state is necessary to preserve and restore groundwater quality. The content of this groundwater protection education must assign obligations, call for sacrifice, and change some current values. Educational efforts should strive to establish a conservation ethic among Iowans and should encourage each Iowan to go beyond enlightened self-interest in the protection of groundwater quality.