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## Why Monitoring?

Under a federal program the state is obliged to have in place a pesticide management plan governing the sale and use of *atrazine*, *metolachlor*, *simazine*, and *alachlor*, so as to prevent ground water contamination by these materials.

This plan will have to be approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency or we stand to lose the use of these important herbicides.

For a plan to be approved it must have a monitoring component. Monitoring will show whether any of these pesticides are presently in our ground water, and will be the means by which we can track ground water quality in the future. The Division of Pesticide Control, therefore, has instituted a program of well monitoring.

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## How is it Done?

Since the summer of 1997 representatives from the Division of Pesticide Control have been visiting areas where these pesticides are used, in order to collect water samples from nearby wells and water bodies, and to map well and sampling locations.

Samples can be collected from any spigot that is served by a given well, bypassing any filter or treatment systems, if possible. The Division also collects information about the design and use of any wells that are sampled, and all wellheads are mapped by GPS technology, which will aid in the interpretation of any findings.

All samples are analyzed by the state laboratories, and the results provided to the well owner free of charge.

If there is a pesticide detection, the Division will work with the applicator in accordance with the state's Site Management Rules to mitigate any contamination by the least restrictive means.

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## Why is it Important?

These four pesticides - ATRAZINE, METOLACHLOR, SIMAZINE, and ALACHLOR - constitute about half the reported herbicide use in New Hampshire. Their greatest use is in the production of silage (corn) for dairy operations, and their loss would have a significant impact on the dairy industry in this state.

Unfortunately, these materials have a tendency to leach into the ground water, and have caused significant contamination in many areas of the country. This is the reason behind the federal program. Here in New Hampshire there do not seem to be any serious contamination problems (based on sample analyses to date), which we attribute to good compliance with the state's rules and regulations governing pesticide use and storage.

We believe that continued diligence and good management practices will help ensure the continued safe and effective use of these herbicides, so they will remain available to the agricultural community for as long as they are necessary.

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**Do You Use  
Any  
of the  
Following  
Herbicides?**

**ATRAZINE  
METOLACHLOR  
SIMAZINE  
ALACHLOR**

If so, you should know that the continued use of these pesticides in New Hampshire hinges upon the state's ability to monitor the quality of ground water for the presence of these materials. Without such monitoring these pesticides could become prohibited for use in New Hampshire.

The Division of Pesticide Control is requesting your cooperation in gathering water quality information by allowing us to collect water samples.

This brochure provides basic information about this program.

**For more information contact Bob Wolff  
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**PESTICIDE  
MONITORING  
PROGRAM**



**NH Department of Agriculture, Markets &  
Food  
Division of Pesticide Control  
Concord, NH**

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