



Information Collection and Information Quality Assessment

for “Relative Risk Assessment of Management Options for Treated Wastewater in South Florida”

U.S. EPA, OGWDW

A Congressional Mandate was issued in 2000 requiring the U.S. EPA to conduct a relative risk assessment of disposal of treated wastewater via deep well injection, aquifer recharge, ocean outfalls and surface water discharge. Horsley Witten Group, Inc. (HW) conducted the relative risk assessment study for the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. This 4-year study required collection, review and synthesis of numerous references, in the areas of contaminant fate and transport, hydrogeology, human health risks, microbial pathogens, nutrients, wastewater constituents, regulations, ecological risks, and local environmental conditions in South Florida.

Information was collected according to an approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). HW utilized many databases and sources of information, including the Florida DEP’s database on wastewater treatment facilities, the U.S. EPA’s database on Class I UIC facilities in Florida, USGS (NAWQA), STORET, SDWIS, Florida Administrative Code, scientific and technical articles and reports, Discharge Monitoring Reports from facilities, and other credible information. Over 600 references were evaluated, of which over 350 were utilized in the report.

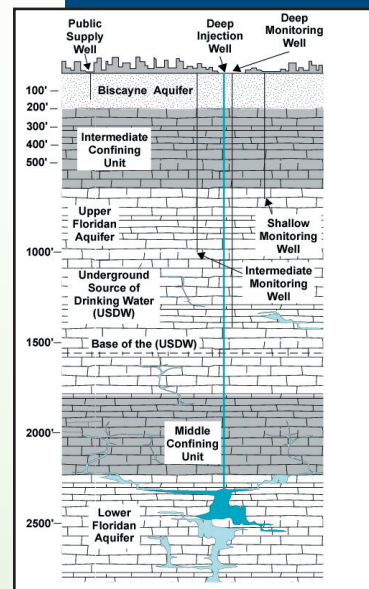
HW conducted the Office of Water’s first Information Quality Assessment under the 2002 Information Quality Rule requiring Federal agencies to document data quality used in influential risk assessments. The information assessment was included in EPA’s record supporting proposed regulatory changes for municipal wastewater treatment in South Florida. The Federal Notice of the availability of the Risk Assessment and proposed Class I rule change was published on May 5, 2003.

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