Protection of drinking water resources in Flanders (Belgium)

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De Watergroep
What people hear

- Pesticides
- Hormones
- Pharmaceutical
- Drugs

What people see

- Pollution
- Industry
- Waste
- Discharges
- Dirty rivers

Drinking water
De Watergroep

De Watergroep in 2014

1.25 M connections
2.9 M customers
120 M m³ drinking water
85 groundwater
5 surface water
Protection of water resources

- Not only a story of meeting standards
- But also avoiding the presence of contaminants

“Healthy, Wholesome and Clean”
Water Safety Plans

Protection of drinking water resources

Site Specific Source files
Relation Source File & WSP

- **Source File**
  - System Description & Hazard identification

- **WSP**
  - Risk Assessment

- **WSP**
  - Risk Management

- **Source File**
  - Vision on source protection measures

- **River Basin Management Plans**
- **Policy**
- **Sensibilisation**
- **Stakeholder involvement**
- **R&D**
Priority zones for protection of groundwater

In River Basin Management Plan
Example source file

Travel times

Vulnerability unsaturated zone

Verblijftijd
10 - 25 jaar
25 - 50 jaar
50 - 100 jaar
100 - 250 jaar

Contaminatiepotentieel onverzadigde zone
Laag risico
Gemiddeld risico
Hoog risico

Aandachtsgebieden
Zeer korte termijn (0 - 5 jaar)
Korte termijn (5 - 25 jaar)
Middellange termijn (25 - 100 jaar)
Lang termijn (> 100 jaar)
Putten De Watergroep
Voormalige mijn site
Activities

Land use

Agricultural activities

Industrial activities

Roads/Railways
Site specific Actions/measures

Former mining site
Monitoring
Interaction close pumping
Interaction drainage
Fully conclusive?

Diffuse pollutions?
Fully conclusive?
Fully conclusive?
Filling the gaps for a safer drinking water supply - Towards a new groundwater protection policy

- Link with Source files
- Definition of responsibilities
- Stakeholder involvement
- Cost-Recovery
- Efficient disaster management
Key factors for success

- Approach: **structured**!
- Key instrument: **site specific source file**!
- Relation and communication to all stakeholders: **open**!
- Environmental Agency: **good contacts and cooperation**!
To conclude