

NC's Private Well Users Need Protection, Too

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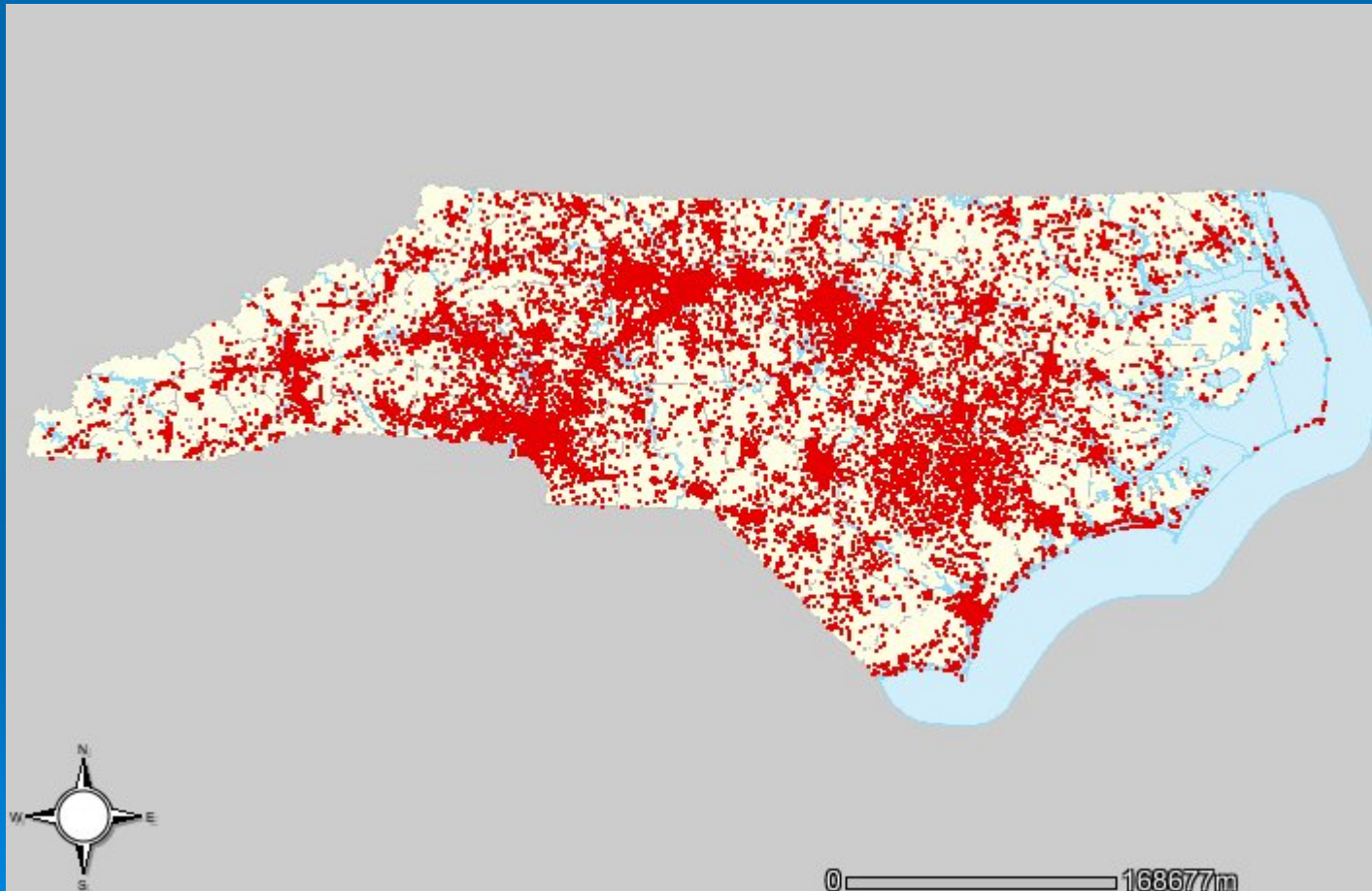
NC's Private Well Users

- At least 2,000,000 North Carolinians depend on private wells or springs.
- Private wells located in every county and legislative district in NC.
- Only 35 of 100 counties have well programs, only a few of those test for contamination other than bacteria

Potential Sources of Well Contamination

- **Underground Fuel Storage Tanks (over 9,000 known leaking tanks)**
- **Livestock Operations, Pesticides**
- **Dry Cleaners, Auto Body Shops and Industrial Chemicals**
- **Old Unlined Landfills**
- **Superfund Hazardous Waste Sites**
- **Spills and Unknown Sources**
- **Arsenic bearing rocks (high in >39 counties)**

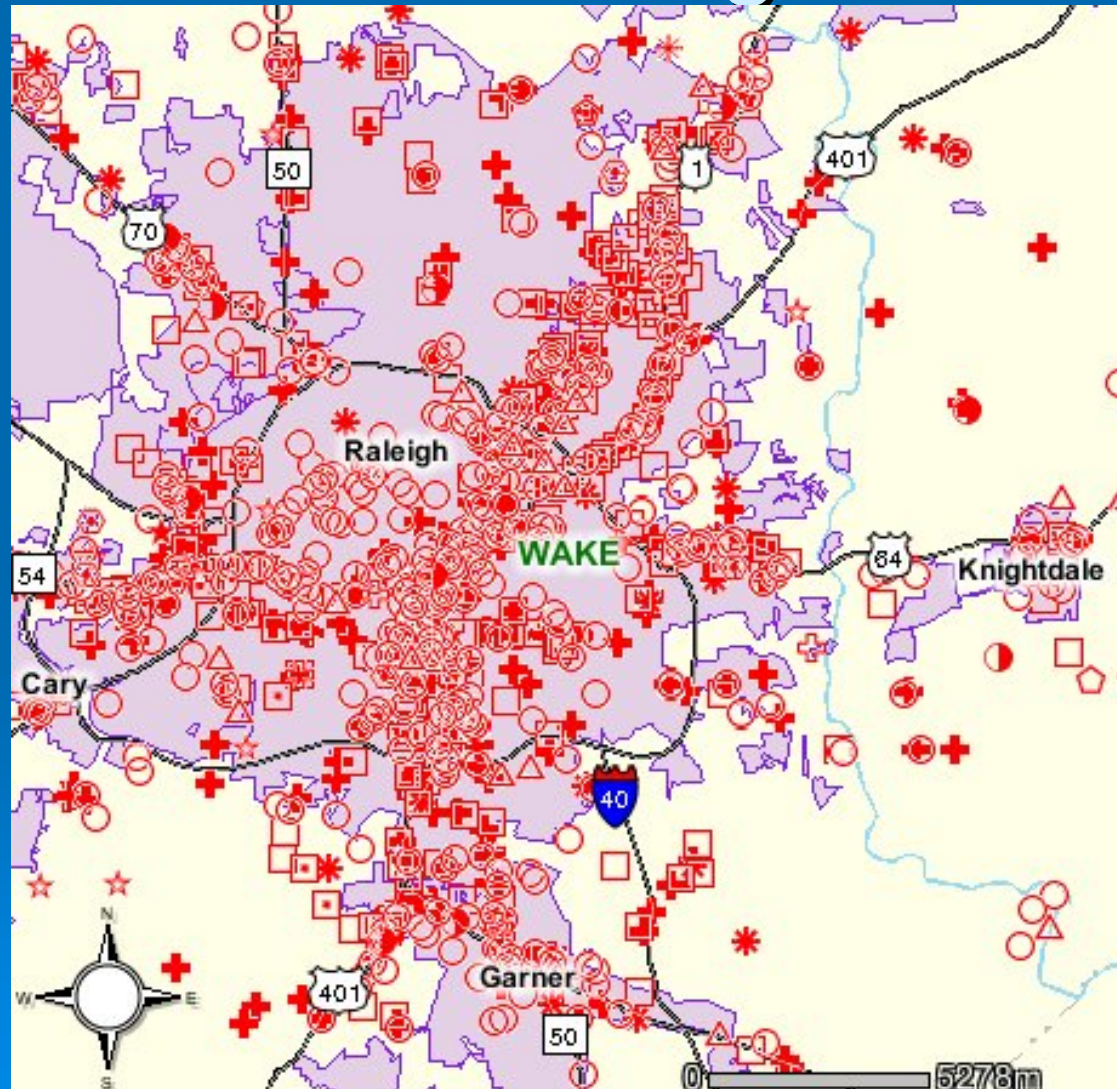
Potential Sources of Water Contamination (SWAPinfo map, PWSS)



NC Well Users are Vulnerable

- No requirement for notification of well-users near documented groundwater contamination. We assume water is safe.
- No assurance that a buyer or renter of a home that uses a well will have safe water supply.
- If well contamination is found, no funding for hookups, filters or other safe water supply, except UST, Dry Cleaning cases.

Real Communities Impacted: SE Raleigh



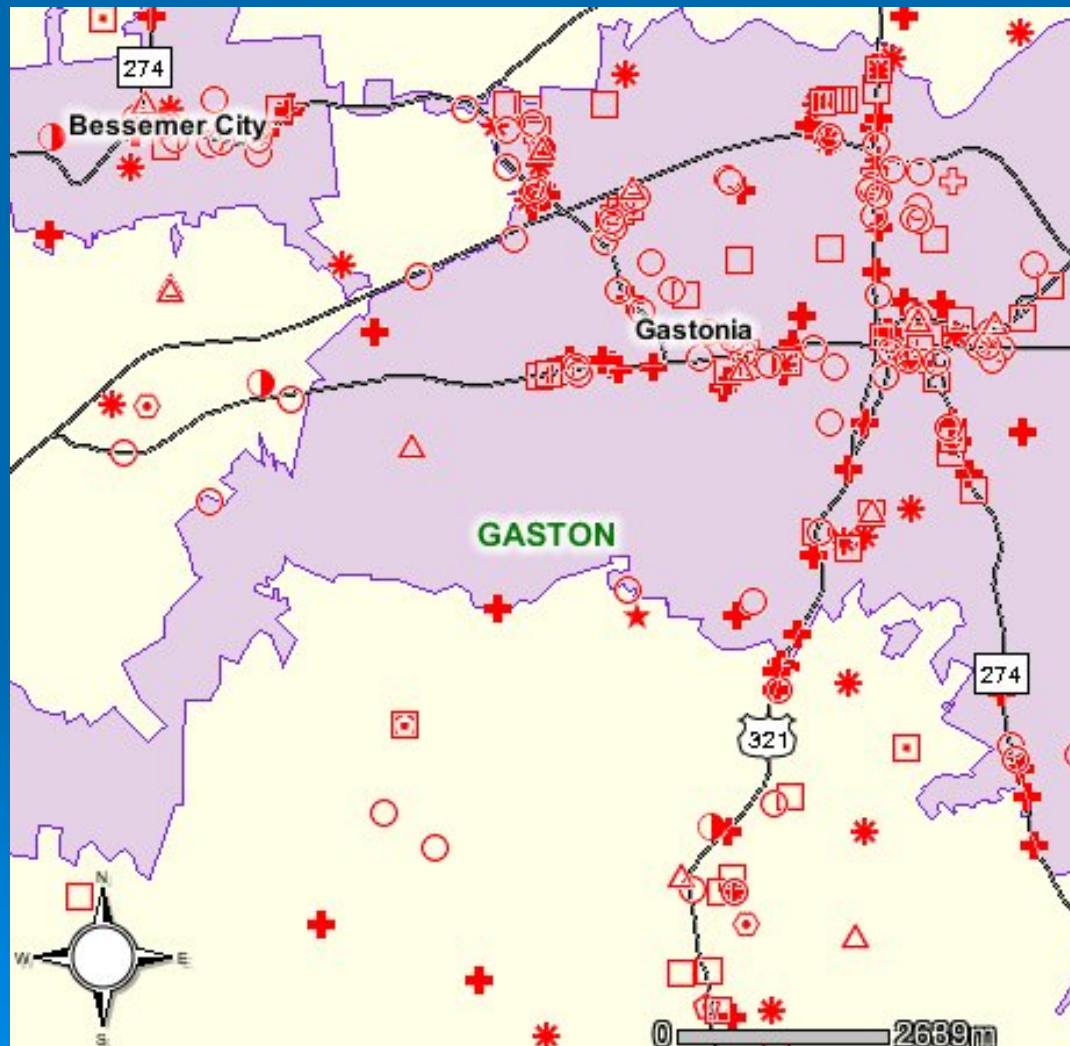
Real Communities Impacted: SE Raleigh

- Beechwood Community (Poole & Barwell Rd. Spring, 2003: Solvent contam. found in 14 wells.
- 1986: DENR had documented solvent contamination in 2 wells, neighbors not notified.
- Beechwood churches, residents had to organize to build support from Raleigh City Council to get funding to reduce hookup cost.
- Fall, 2003: Wake County passes state's best well user protection ordinance. Test wells for most common contaminants at reduced cost.

Real Communities Impacted: Beechwood Community



Real Communities Impacted: West Gastonia



Real Communities Impacted: West Gastonia

- 6 contaminated wells in neighborhood near Dixie Village shopping center.
- PCE: Solvent used in dry-cleaning and degreasing, causes nerve and liver damage.
- >\$2,000 to hook up to city water, too expensive for low income residents.
- Residents who hooked up quickly not reimbursed by Dry Cleaning program.

EVERY North Carolinian Has the Right to Safe Drinking Water, BUT....

- Well users are not notified if groundwater contamination is known to be nearby.
- There is no requirement that drinking water wells be tested for common contaminants before sale or leasing of property.
- If a private well is found to be contaminated or imminently threatened, there is no single funding source to ensure that residents can obtain a safe replacement water supply.

NC Well Users Need...

H1701 (B. Allen) provides a cost-effective way to protect right to safe water, so residents don't have to:

- meet requirements of specific clean-up program (Dry Cleaning or UST Funds), or
- identify a “responsible party” for the contamination, or
- wait years for the political will of local officials and applications for grant funding.