



Wekepeke Proposal—Sterling Fact Sheet

Scope of the project

Nestlé Waters proposes purchasing a limited amount of spring water for a defined period of time, drawn from three shallow wells (approx. 35 feet deep) near the Spring Basin section of the Wekepeke. We do not propose buying the Wekepeke or privatizing the water resource. On the contrary, we want to see it protected as public open space.

At each well we would construct a small shed-like building, or ground-level enclosure. The water would be piped off-site through the existing water main installed when Clinton used the Wekepeke as its primary water supply.

Somewhere along that pipeline, in a yet-to-be-determined industrial or commercial location, we would build a loading station for trucks to fill up and then drive to our bottling plant in Framingham. The loading station will be close to Route 190 so trucks can leave the area without driving through downtown Sterling or through residential neighborhoods. We anticipate up to 30 trucks a day would be involved.

What's in it for Sterling?

We've heard from many Sterling residents who say that preserving the Wekepeke as public open space is vital. We agree. A conservation restriction on the land would prevent future development. Our plan provides a revenue stream to offset land management costs, which Clinton officials say is needed if they are to approve such a restriction.

**Substantial new revenue
for the Town of Sterling**

On the financial side, our proposal will result in substantial new revenues for the town of Sterling. **While the exact amount and structure of these payments remains to be negotiated, we expect it will be between \$150,000 and \$200,000 annually for Sterling in each year of our water operations.** This would make Nestlé the equivalent of the largest taxpayer in town, while requiring little in the way of municipal services. It would also diversify Sterling's revenue stream, easing the reliance on the property tax.

Impact on neighboring wells and the watershed

Extensive hydrological testing at the site shows that our proposal will have no adverse impact on surrounding wells or the watershed. Our approach to spring water sources is all about protection and sustainability.

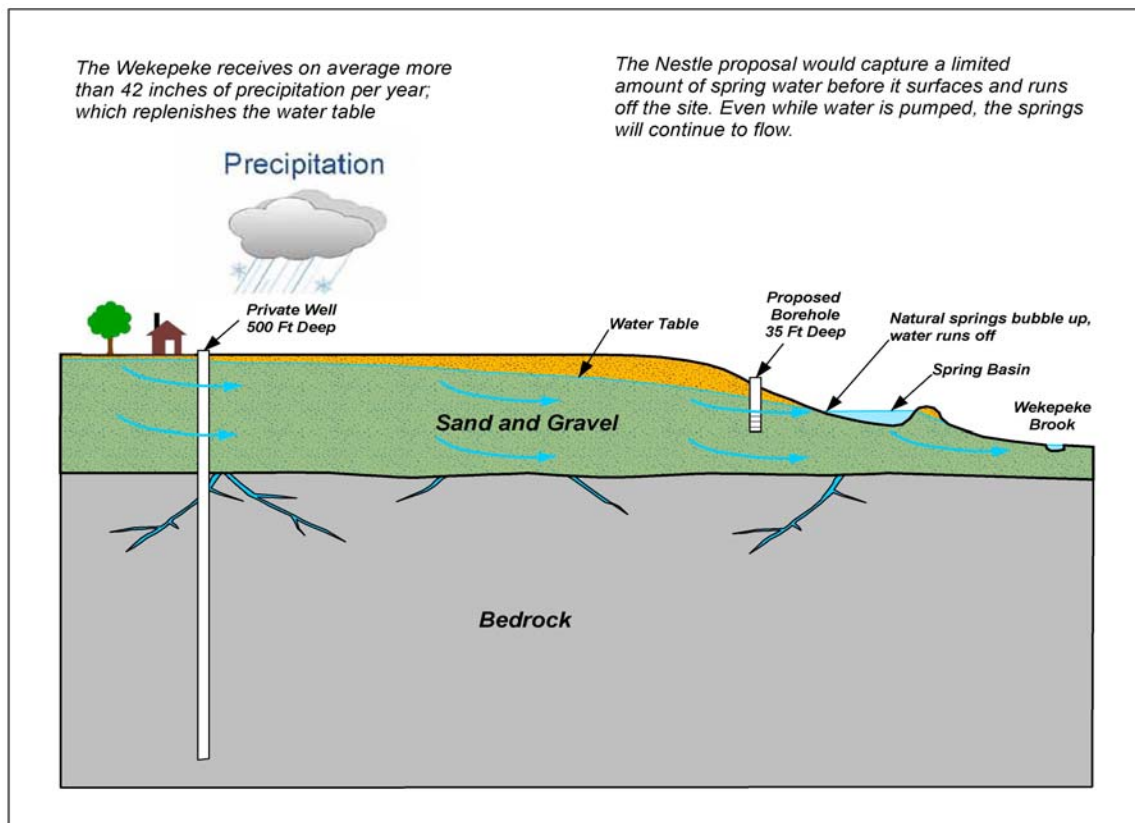
Spring water is a renewable resource. The water we would withdraw from the Wekepeke now bubbles to the surface at several springs. It then flows into brooks and off the site into the river system (see graphic below). The system is continually

**Protection agreements
for neighboring wells**

recharged by rain fall and melting snow.

By federal regulation, and by our own company standards, those springs must continue to bubble to the surface even while we pump water. We propose drawing a limited amount of water from the shallow sand and gravel aquifer at the Wekepeke. Our survey of area wells, conducted according to Massachusetts DEP guidelines, showed that residential wells in the area, with one exception, draw water from the fractured bedrock aquifer hundreds of feet below the sand and gravel aquifer. In other words we are dealing with two distinct sources of water.

Nevertheless, to ease any lingering concerns, we will offer Wekepeke neighbors written protection agreements to assure that we would fix any problems with their wells if caused by our water withdrawals.



The permitting process

There are a number of state and local permits that will be required to implement our proposal. The state's environmental agencies will examine our plan, and if approved, will regulate our operations. The state will set the limit for the amount of water we could withdraw from the Wekepeke and will require ongoing monitoring and reporting.

In conclusion

Throughout this process, Nestlé Waters is committed to complying with all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations. We look forward to working cooperatively with the town of Sterling, as our desire is to be a good neighbor.

For more information please contact Tom Brennan @ 617-348-1632,
or visit our website: www.nestlewatersma.com