Groundwater nitrate contamination by agri-chemicals: refining the conceptual model

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Groundwater is the principle source of potable water for about 40% of the Canadian population. In rural areas, including most agricultural regions, it accounts for more than 90%. Non-point source contamination of groundwater by widespread use of nitrogen fertilizer in the agricultural sector is currently one of the focal issues in hydrogeology. Although nitrate is the most common chemical contaminant in groundwater, it remains one of the most poorly understood and least regul-