

## 8 RECOMMENDATIONS

The present study has been based on information available from the groundwater database. The database has three problems:

- 1) the quality of the data;
- 2) the coordinate system used for the horizontal control; and
- 3) the distribution of the data.

The quality of the data in the groundwater database is affected by two factors: a) the technical training of the persons collecting the data; and b) the quality control of the data. The possible options to upgrade the database include the creation of a super database, which includes only verified data. The level of verification would have to include identifying the water well in the field, obtaining meaningful horizontal coordinates for the water well and the verification of certain parameters such as water level and completed depth. An attempt to update the quality of the entire database is not recommended.

In addition to the quality of the information in the database, there is only a limited understanding of the distribution of individual geological units, both in the bedrock and the surficial deposits. The complexity of the depositional environment and a limited amount of subsurface control exacerbate the problem of trying to develop digital surfaces. The best example of this is the indication of significant yields for water wells completed in the Lea Park Formation, which is generally thought of as an aquitard. This anomaly can only be explained by conducting a detailed investigation of the local conditions. This would require a detailed program involving geophysical techniques and test drilling. Because of the broad nature of the condition, a study would need to be completed to better define the anomaly and provide direction for a field program.

Another area of concern is the determination of a groundwater budget. Two observation water wells are totally inadequate to obtain meaningful values for the groundwater budget. One method to obtain additional water-level data is to solicit the assistance of the water well owners who are stakeholders in the groundwater resource. In the M.D. of Rocky View, water well owners are being provided with a tax credit if they accurately measure the water level in their water well once per week for a year. A pilot project indicated that approximately five years of records are required to obtain a reasonable data set.

**In general, for the next level of study, the database needs updating. It requires more information from existing water wells, and additional information from new ones.**

Before an attempt is made to upgrade the level of interpretation provided in this report and the accompanying maps and groundwater query, it is recommended that all water wells for which water well drilling reports are available be subjected to the following actions:

1. The horizontal location of the water well should be determined within 10 metres. The coordinates must be in 10TM NAD 27 or some other system that will allow conversion to 10TM NAD 27 coordinates.
2. A four-hour aquifer test (2 hours of pumping and 2 hours of recovery) should be performed with the water well to obtain a realistic estimate for the transmissivity of the aquifer in which the water well is completed.
3. Water samples should be collected for chemical analysis after 5 and 115 minutes of pumping, and analyzed for major and minor ions.

In addition to the data collection associated with the existing water wells, all available geophysical logs should be interpreted to establish a more accurate spatial definition of individual aquifers.

There is also a need to provide the water well drillers with feedback on the reports they are submitting to the regulatory agencies. The feedback is necessary to allow for a greater degree of uniformity in the reporting process. This is particularly true when trying to identify the bedrock surface. The water well drilling reports should be submitted to the AEP Resource Data Division in an electronic form. The money presently being spent by AEP and Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) to transpose the paper form to the electronic form should be used to allow for a technical review of the data and follow-up discussions with the drillers.

**An effort should be made to form a partnership with the petroleum industry.** The industry spends millions of dollars each year collecting information relative to water wells. Proper coordination of this effort could provide significantly better information from which future regional interpretations could be made. This could be accomplished by the County taking an active role in the activities associated with the construction of lease sites for the drilling of hydrocarbon wells and conducting of seismic programs.

**Groundwater is a renewable resource and it must be managed.**

## 9 REFERENCES

Andriashek, L. D. 1985. Quaternary Stratigraphy Sand River Area, Alberta. NTS 73L.

Hackbarth, D. A. 1975. Hydrogeology of the Wainwright Area, Alberta. Alberta Research Council. Report 75-1.

Mossop, G. and I. Shetsen (co-compilers). 1994. Geological Atlas of the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin. Produced jointly by the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geology, Alberta Research Council, Alberta Energy, and the Geological Survey of Canada.

Ozoray, G., M. Dubord and A. Cowen. 1990. Groundwater Resources of the Vermilion 73E Map Area, Alberta. Alberta Environmental Protection.

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## 10 GLOSSARY

Apparent Yield	a regional analysis term referring to the rate a properly completed water well could be pumped, if fully penetrating the aquifer.
Aquifer	a formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that contains saturated permeable rocks capable of transmitting groundwater to water wells or springs in economical quantities.
Aquitard	a confining bed that retards but does not prevent the flow of water to or from an adjacent aquifer.
Available Drawdown	in a confined aquifer, the distance between the non-pumping water level and the top of the aquifer.  in an unconfined aquifer (water table aquifer), two thirds of the saturated thickness of the aquifer.
Facies	the aspect or character of the sediment within beds of one and the same age (Pettijohn, 1957).
Fluvial	produced by the action of a stream or river.
Hydraulic Conductivity	the rate of flow of water through a unit cross-section under a unit hydraulic gradient; units are length/time.
Kriging	a geo-statistical method for gridding irregularly-spaced data.
Lacustrine	fine-grained sedimentary deposits associated with a lake environment and not including shore-line deposits.
Surficial Deposits	includes all sediments above the bedrock.
Transmissivity	the rate at which water is transmitted through a unit width of an aquifer under a unit hydraulic gradient: a measure of the ease with which groundwater can move through the aquifer.  Apparent Transmissivity: the value determined from a summary of aquifer test data, usually involving only two water-level readings.  Effective Transmissivity: the value determined from late pumping and/or late recovery water-level data from an aquifer test.  Aquifer Transmissivity: the value determined by multiplying the hydraulic conductivity of an aquifer by the thickness of the aquifer.

**COUNTY OF ST. PAUL NO. 19**

**Appendix C**

**GENERAL WATER WELL INFORMATION**

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## Domestic Water Well Testing

### Purpose and Requirements

The purpose of the testing of domestic water wells is to obtain background data related to:

- 1) the non-pumping water level for the aquifer - Has there been any lowering of the level since the last measurement?
- 2) the specific capacity of the water well, which indicates the type of contact the water well has with the aquifer;
- 3) the transmissivity of the aquifer and hence an estimate of the projected long-term yield for the water well;
- 4) the chemical, bacteriological and physical quality of the groundwater from the water well.

The testing procedure involves conducting an aquifer test and collecting of groundwater samples for analysis by an accredited laboratory. The date and time of the testing are to be recorded on all data collection sheets. A sketch showing the location of the water well relative to surrounding features is required. The sketch should answer the question, "If this water well is tested in the future, how will the person doing the testing know this is the water well I tested?"

The water well should be taken out of service as long as possible before the start of the aquifer test, preferably not less than 30 minutes before the start of pumping. The non-pumping water level is to be measured 30, 10, and 5 minutes before the start of pumping and immediately before the start of pumping which is to be designated as time 0 for the test. All water levels must be from the same designated reference, usually the top of the casing. Water levels are to be measured during the pumping interval and during the recovery interval after the pump has been turned off; all water measurements are to be with an accuracy of  $\pm 0.01$  metres.

During the pumping and recovery intervals, the water level is to be measured at the appropriate times. An example of the time schedule for a 4-hour test is as follows, measured in minutes after the pump is turned on and again after the pump is turned off:

1,2,3,4,6,8,10,13,16,20,25,32,40,50,64,80,100,120.

For a four-hour test, the reading after 120 minutes of pumping will be the same as the 0 minutes of recovery. Under no circumstance will the recovery interval be less than the pumping interval.

Flow rate during the aquifer test should be measured and recorded with the maximum accuracy possible. Ideally, a water meter with an accuracy of better than  $\pm 1\%$  displaying instantaneous and total flow should be used. If a water meter is not available, then the time required to completely fill a container of known volume should be recorded, noting the time to the nearest 0.5 seconds or better. Flow rate should be determined and recorded often to ensure a constant pumping rate.

Groundwater samples should be collected as soon as possible after the start of pumping and within 10 minutes of the end of pumping. Initially only the groundwater samples collected near the end of the pumping interval need to be submitted to the accredited laboratory for analysis. All samples must be properly stored for transportation to the laboratory and, in the case of the bacteriological analysis, there is a maximum time allowed between the time the sample is collected and the time the sample is delivered to the laboratory. The first samples collected are only analyzed if there is a problem or a concern with the first samples submitted to the laboratory.

## Procedure

### Site Diagrams

These diagrams are a map showing the distance to nearby significant features. This would include things like a corner of a building (house, barn, garage etc.) or the distance to the half-mile or mile fence. The description should allow anyone not familiar with the site to be able to unequivocally identify the water well that was tested.

In lieu of a map, UTM coordinates accurate to within five metres would be acceptable. If a hand-held GPS is used, the post-processing correction details must be provided.

### Surface Details

The type of surface completion must be noted. This will include such things as a pitless adapter, well pit, pump house, in basement, etc. Also, the reference point used for measuring water levels needs to be noted. This would include top of casing (TOC) XX metres above ground level; well pit lid, XX metres above TOC; TOC in well pit XX metres below ground level.

### Groundwater Discharge Point

Where was the flow of groundwater discharge regulated? For example was the discharge through a hydrant downstream from the pressure tank; discharged directly to ground either by connecting directly above the well seal or by pulling the pump up out of the pitless adapter; from a tap on the house downstream from the pressure tank? Also note must be made if any action was taken to ensure the pump would operate continuously during the pumping interval and whether the groundwater was passing through any water-treatment equipment before the discharge point.

### Water-Level Measurements

How were the water-level measurements obtained? If obtained using a contact gauge, what type of cable was on the tape, graduated tape or a tape with tags? If a tape with tags, when was the; last time the tags were calibrated? If a graduated tape, what is the serial number of the tape and is the tape shorter than its original length (i.e. is any tape missing)?

If water levels are obtained using a transducer and data logger, the serial numbers of both transducer and data logger are needed and a copy of the calibration sheet. The additional information required is the depth the transducer was set and the length of time between when the transducer was installed and when the calibration water level was measured, plus the length of time between the installation of the transducer and the start of the aquifer test.

All water levels must be measured at least to the nearest 0.01 metres.

### **Discharge Measurements**

Type of water meter used. This could include such things as a turbine or positive displacement meter. How were the readings obtained from the meter? Were the readings visually noted and recorded or were they recorded using a data logger?

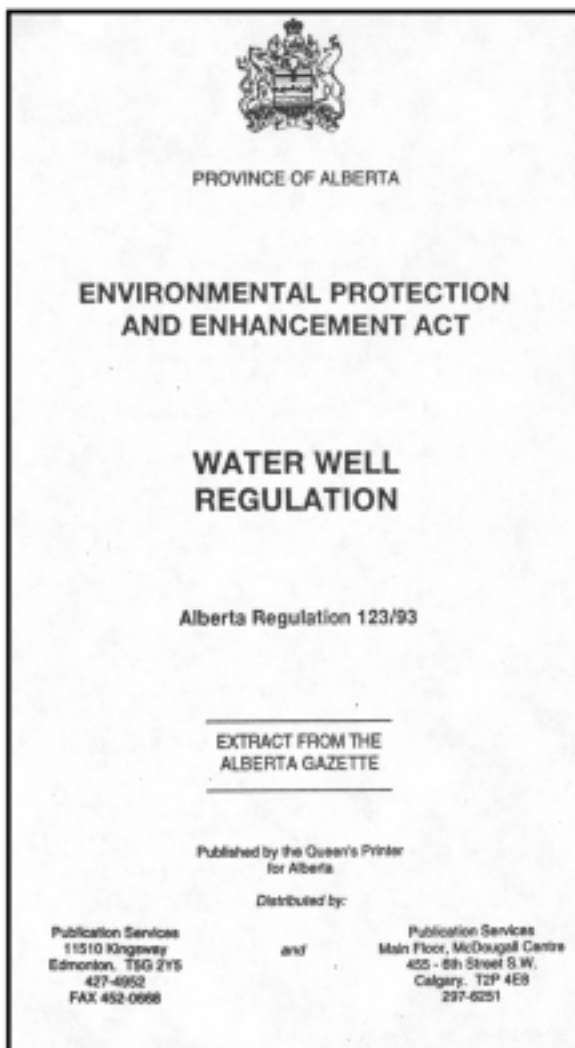
### **Water Samples**

A water sample must be collected between the 4- and 6-minute water-level measurements, whenever there is an observed physical change in the groundwater being pumped, and 10 minutes before the end of the planned pumping interval. Additional water samples must be collected if it is expected that pumping will be terminated before the planned pumping interval.



# Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act

## Water Well Regulation



Alberta Regulation 123/93  
Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act  
WATER WELL REGULATION

Filed: April 22, 1993

Made by the Minister of Environmental Protection pursuant to sections 81(1)(a) and (f), 138(a)-(c), (g), (h), (j)-(n) of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.

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## Additional Information

### VIDEOS

Will the Well Go Dry Tomorrow? (Mow-Tech Ltd.: 1-800 GEO WELL)  
Water Wells that Last (PFRA – Edmonton Office: 403-495-3307)  
Ground Water and the Rural Community (Ontario Ground Water Association)

### BOOKLET

Water Wells that Last (PFRA – Edmonton Office: 403-495-3307)

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