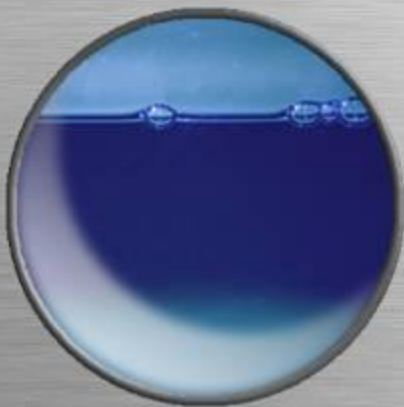


William A. McElhiney

Distinguished Lecturer Series

Well Technology

Made possible by a grant from Franklin Electric Company to the
National Ground Water Research and Educational Foundation





NGWREF McElhiney Lecture Series



To foster professional excellence in water well technology, the National Ground Water Research and Educational Foundation has established the William A. McElhiney Distinguished Lecture Series in Water Well Technology.

Initiated in 2000, the lecture series honors William A. McElhiney, who was the founding president of the National Ground Water Association in 1948, and a ground water contractor and civil engineer from Brookfield, Illinois.



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national
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research and educational foundation





NGWREF McElhiney Lecture Series

"McElhiney and the other founders of the Association saw several primary functions for the new national group," explains Foundation Executive Director Kevin McCray, "including serving as a clearinghouse for information and its dissemination, serving as an intermediary in coordinating advances occurring in different parts of the country, and serving as a place to bring contractors together so that they might have a working knowledge of contracting from all parts of the nation. NGWREF's McElhiney Lecture series promotes and perpetuates those original aims."



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NGWREF McElhiney Lecture Series

Annually, a panel of ground water contractors invites an outstanding ground water contracting professional to share his or her work with the industry. Individuals may nominate themselves or others they believe to be qualified to serve as the NGWA McElhiney distinguished lecturer.



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NGWREF McElhiney Lecture Series

Effective May 2005, Franklin Electric Co., the world's largest manufacturer of submersible electric motors, has agreed to underwrite the next three years of this lecture series for presentations to organized groups of contractors and other qualified and interested parties. Meetings and conventions of state and regional associations are eligible. Foreign associations of ground water contractors, academic institutions teaching water well technology, gatherings of water well regulators, and other bodies with a direct and identifiable interest in water well design and construction are eligible as well.



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NGWREF McElhiney Lecture Series

2008 Lecturer

F. Michael Krautkramer, LHG, RG



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NGWREF McElhiney Lecture Series

How Much Is Enough? Making Decisions in the Water Well Industry



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Decisions Carry Consequences

A drilling project can be looked at as a series of decisions.

Unfortunately, most of our decisions get locked in place as steel and cement.





OURS ARE CRITICAL PATH PROJECTS

Knowing and doing the right things in the right order.

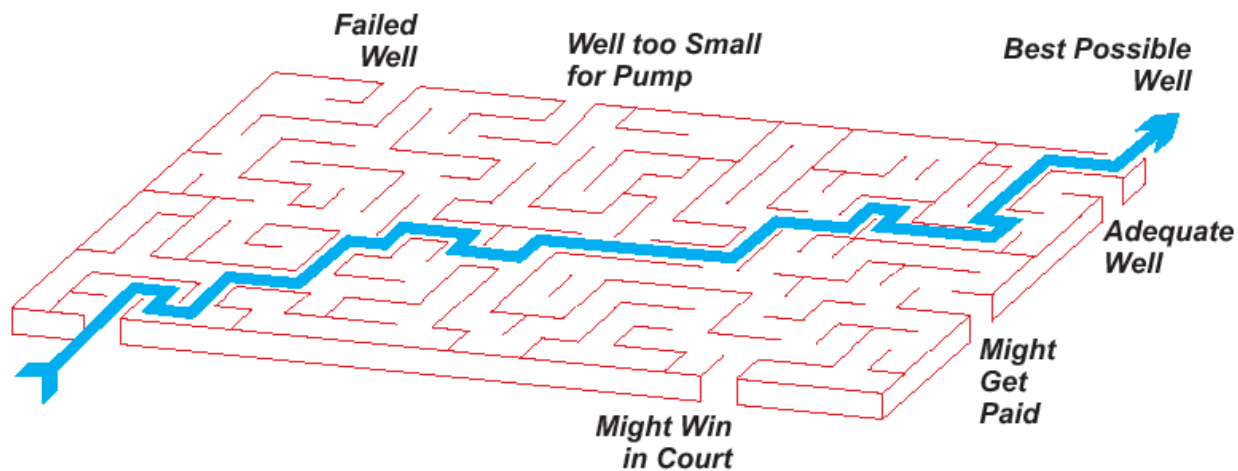
Your mom taught you critical path thinking when you were very young.

Socks then shoes!





EARLY DECISIONS ARE IMPORTANT



A drilling project is much like the maze puzzles you did as a child.





IMPLICATIONS TO PROJECT SUCCESS AND BUSINESS SUCCESS

Good decisions for *projects*:

Ability to reach depth

Provide best completion

Install appropriate pump

Higher production, efficient wells

Clean & clear water production

Good decisions for *business*:

People pay the invoice

You do not end up in court

Reputation gets customers

Explain what you did and why

Good decisions save time and \$





KNOW WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: CREATE A CHECK LIST

Ask the customer

Inspect the site

Research the area

Formally plan the work

PRE-QUOTE CHECKLIST

Questions to be answered before submitting a quote

- Where is the site?
- Can I get my equipment on the site? Will site preparation be needed?
- Does the site meet regulatory requirements? (setbacks from septic etc.)
- What is the intended use of the water?
- What production rate is needed? Does the customer desire or expect more?
- Are there specific water quality requirements?
- Which aquifers in the area are likely to meet the need?
- How deep is the well likely to have to be drilled to get the desired water?
- What is the likely static water level? Pumping water level?
- What casing or hole diameter is needed for the appropriate pump?
- Is a water right needed? Does the customer have one?
- Are there known groundwater problems in the area?
- Are there known regulatory problems in the area?





DO NOT PRESUME YOU KNOW THE SITE

Don't skip the basics

Make a site visit every time

Don't miss the obvious

Due diligence saves you from surprises

(Soft ground, for instance)





KNOW WHAT THE CLIENT NEEDS AND EXPECTS

Interview the customer

Ask questions about what is needed / wanted

Communicate the options and their implications

Get as much in writing as possible





DECIDE ON A SPECIFIC SITE

Define setback issues

Define access issues

Where will the spoils go?

What do the regulations require?

What is convenient for the owner?
(piping, power, ease of use)





DEVELOPING YOUR QUOTE

Clearly state your units

Research prices

Keep written records

Produce a written quote

Communicate the detail

Item	Description	Units	Price Per Unit	Estimated Cost
1	Mobilization and demobilization	One	Lump Sum	
2	Place and complete flow-protection seal (drill temporary 24-inch, place & cement 20-inch casing)	30 feet	\$ ____/ft	
3	16-inch drive shoe	One	Each	
4	Drill hole for 16-inch casing	170 feet	\$ ____/ft	
5a	Provide and install 16-inch casing	205 feet	\$ ____/ft	
5b	Provide and install 12-inch casing (casing cost only, installation part of Item 9)	137 feet	\$ ____/ft	
6	16-inch shoe cut	One	Each	
7	Provide well screen and fittings (Estimating 70 feet of 12-inch).	70 feet	\$ ____/ft	
8	Extra materials. Cost plus 15%.	Grouped estimate	lump sum	
9	Hourly rig work	100 hours	\$ ____/hr	
10	Stand-by/shop time	15 hours	\$ ____/hr	
11	Provide, install & remove test pump; pump for four hours,	One	Lump Sum	
12	Operate pump	24 hours	\$ ____/hr	
13	Salvage Credit for 16-inch casing	80 feet	(\$ ____/ft)	()
			Base Bid Total	\$





ONCE YOU HAVE QUOTED THE JOB, YOU HAVE ALREADY MADE DECISIONS

At the very least, be aware they are made and make sure the customer knows these decisions have consequences to the job

Drilling rig

Casing size

Maximum depth you can reach

Possible types of completion

Maximum production

Pumping equipment that can be used

Testing that can be done





THE RIG IS ON SITE - NOW WHAT?

The decisions keep coming

When should I stop drilling?

How thorough a completion is appropriate?

How much development should I employ?

What is the necessary testing?

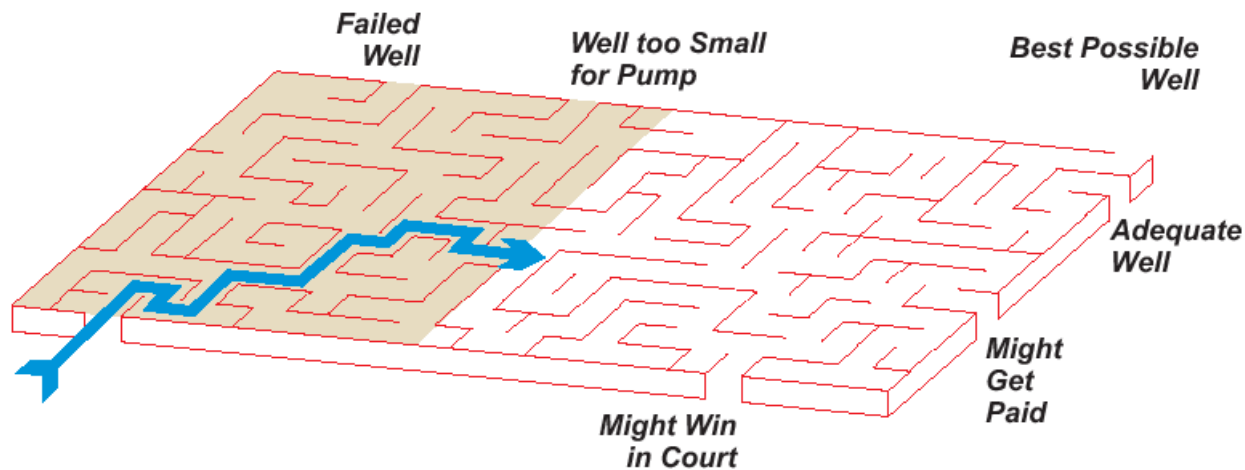
How much water should I tell the customer they have?

What information should I give the customer?





ON SITE – HOW DEEP DO YOU DRILL?

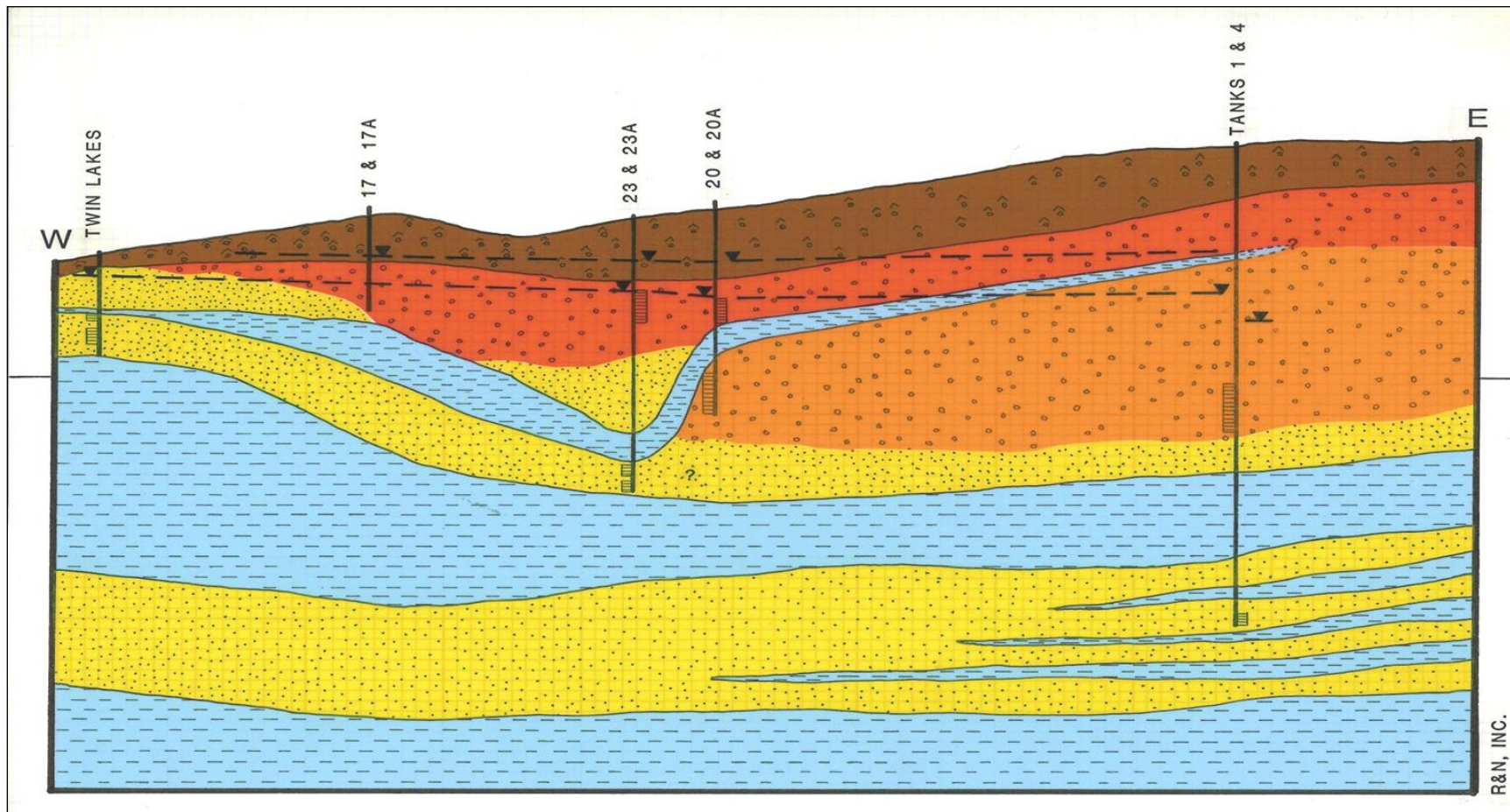


You have avoided some of the bad decisions





IT IS A COMPLICATED WORLD IN WHICH WE WORK





DECISIONS IN THE FIELD

How deep is deep enough?

Watch the water levels during drilling

Get the draw down you need – then use it wisely

Never drill just enough to get by – things change

Drill all of the aquifer zone (unless only very little water is needed)

Part of the aquifer is not as productive as all of the aquifer



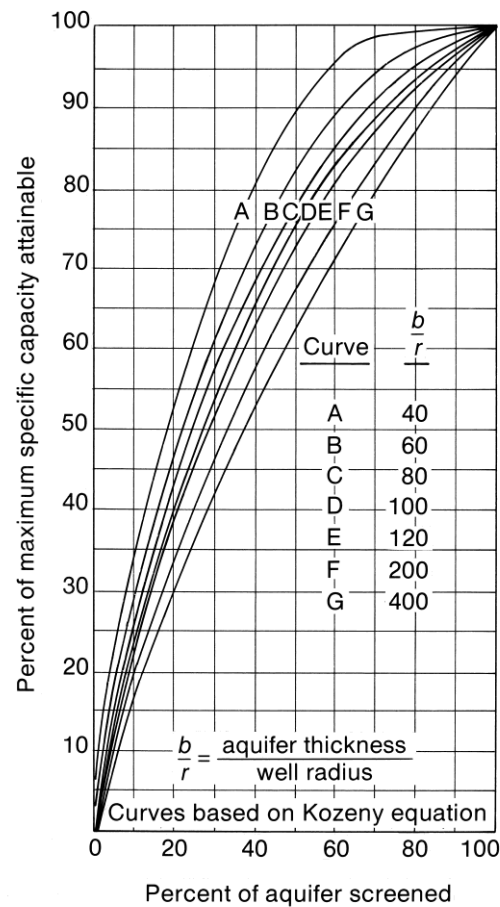


THE MATH OF ONLY TAKING “SOME OF IT”

Lower specific capacity

More susceptible to loss of efficiency

You cannot screen what you do not drill



Graph courtesy of Johnson Screen





WHY THE WELL CARES ABOUT "ALL OF IT"

Rock and sediments are usually layered

K_h is much larger than k_v - water prefers to move horizontally

If you make it move vertically - it makes you pay for the right

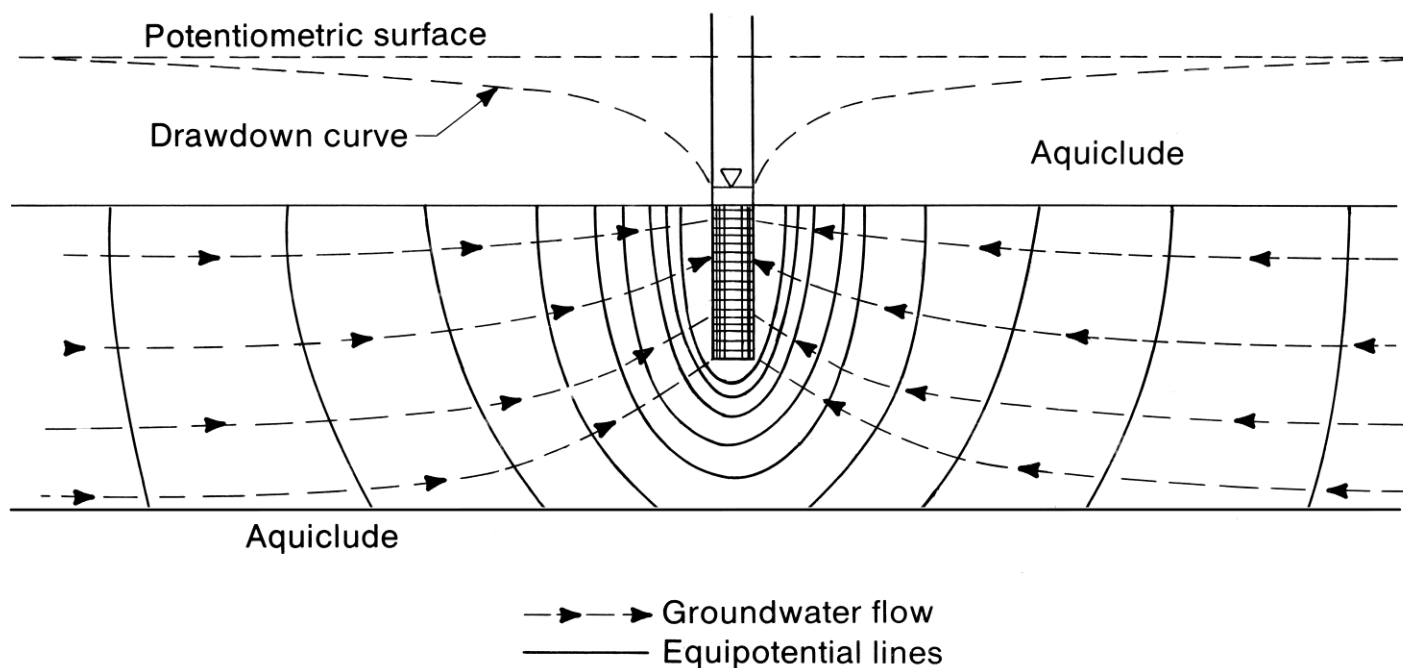
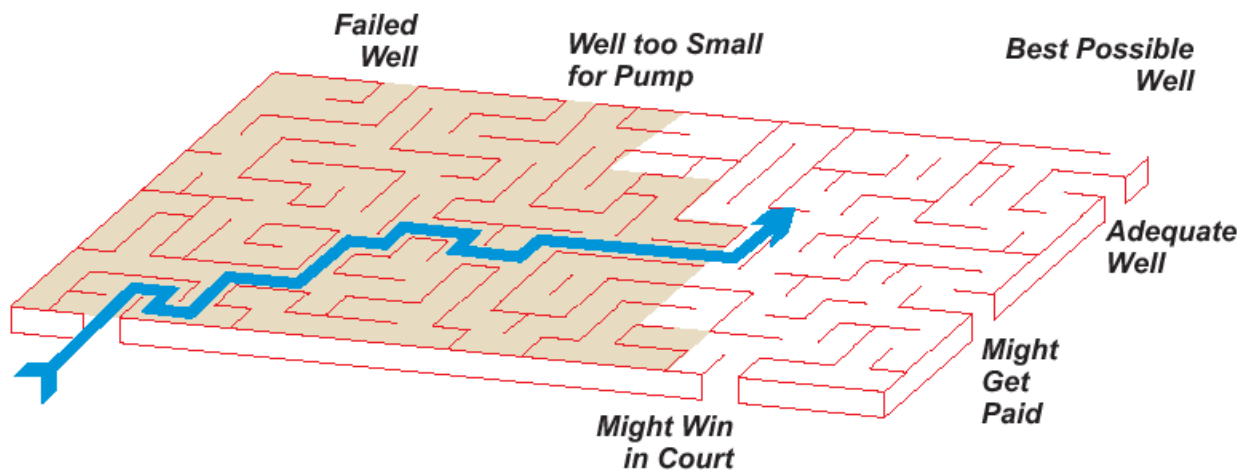


Figure courtesy of Johnson Screen





CONCEPTS IN WELL EFFICIENCY



You have drilled the hole.
Now you have to get the water out.





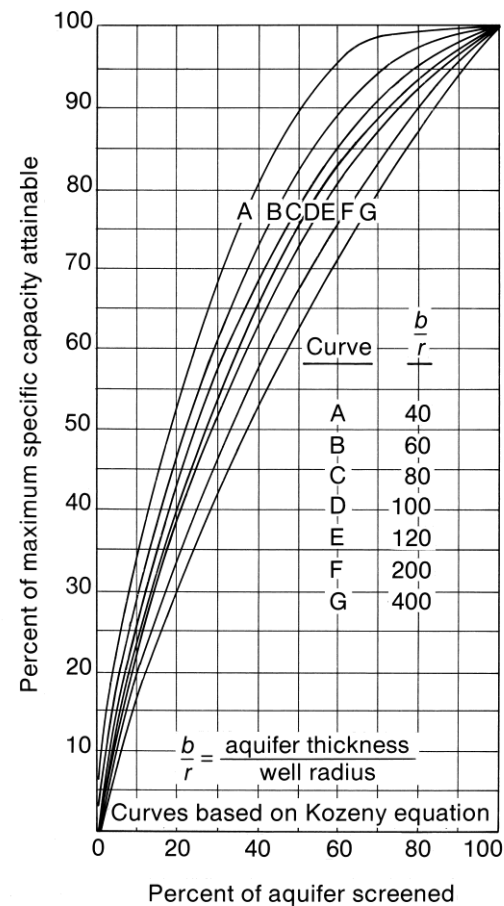
LIMITED AQUIFER EXPOSURE

Same arguments as not drilling it all

If you need all you can get, screen all that you have

2/3 of total thickness in unconfined aquifers

The less aquifer you use, the more draw down you get





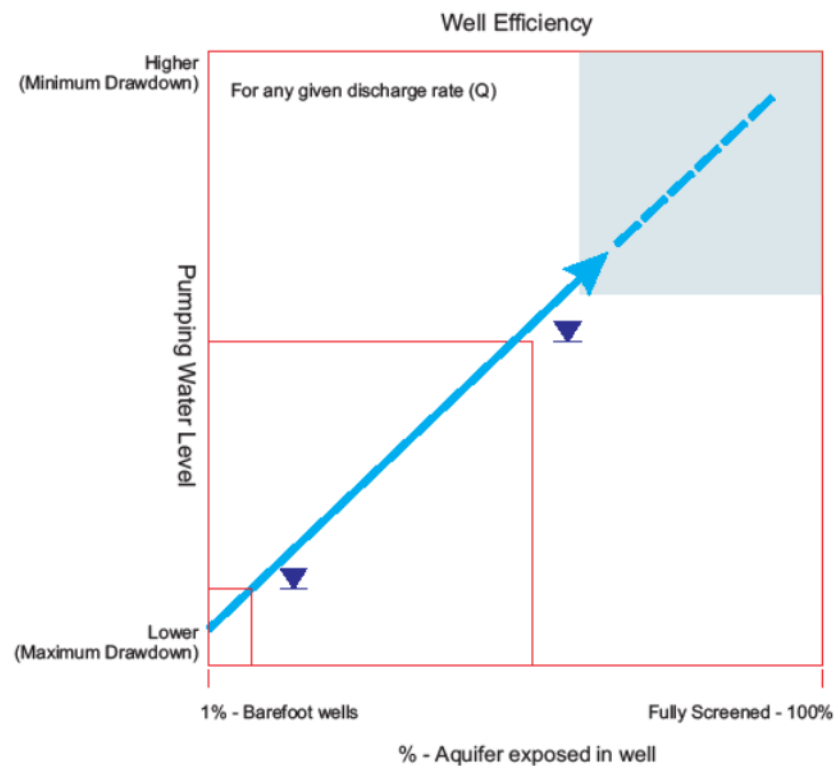
MEEK DESIGNS MAKE INEFFICIENT WELLS

Design it to be efficient

Less efficiency means more draw down

More draw down is a greater stress on the well

More draw down encourages chemical and biological problems



Effects Of Partial Penetration Of Aquifer





POOR DESIGN COSTS MONEY - FOREVER

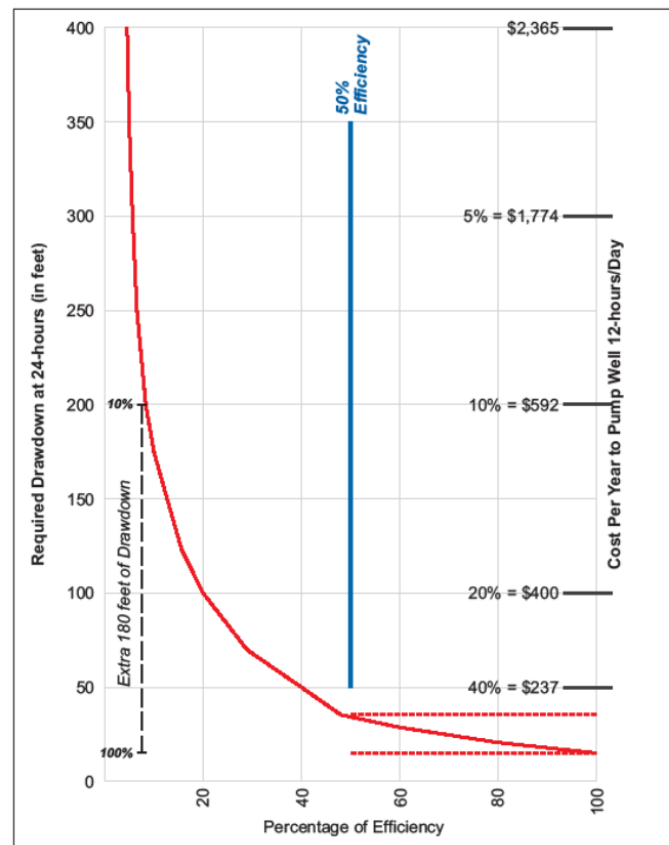
Partial penetration = greater inefficiency

Inefficiency = more drawdown

More draw down = higher pumping costs

More draw down = higher maintenance costs

Spend the money on the well



Well Producing 100 gpm in Aquifer with Transmissivity of 10,000 gpd/ft.





WELL COMPLETION

SO MANY QUESTIONS, SO LITTLE TIME

Should I use a liner?

Should I use a screen?

What about gravel packing?

How much screen?

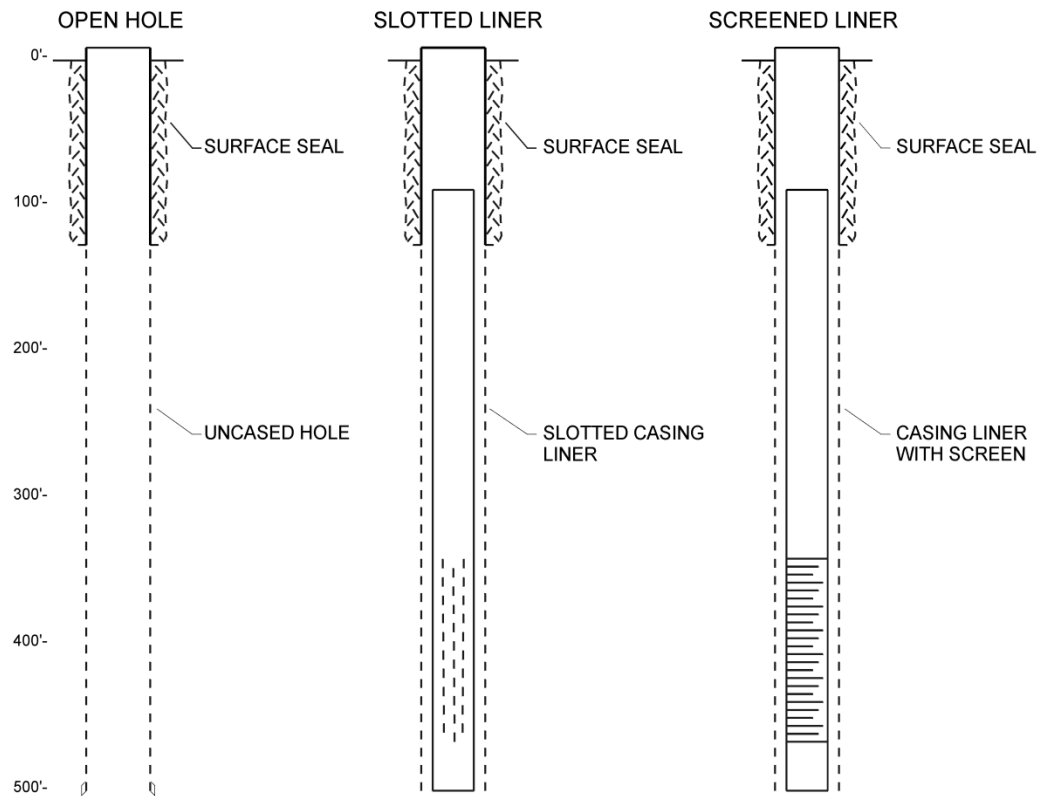
What type of screen?

What cost is justified?





CONSOLIDATED ROCK WELLS



Liners add security, stability, and reliability.





CASED WELLS: THE BAREFOOT WELL

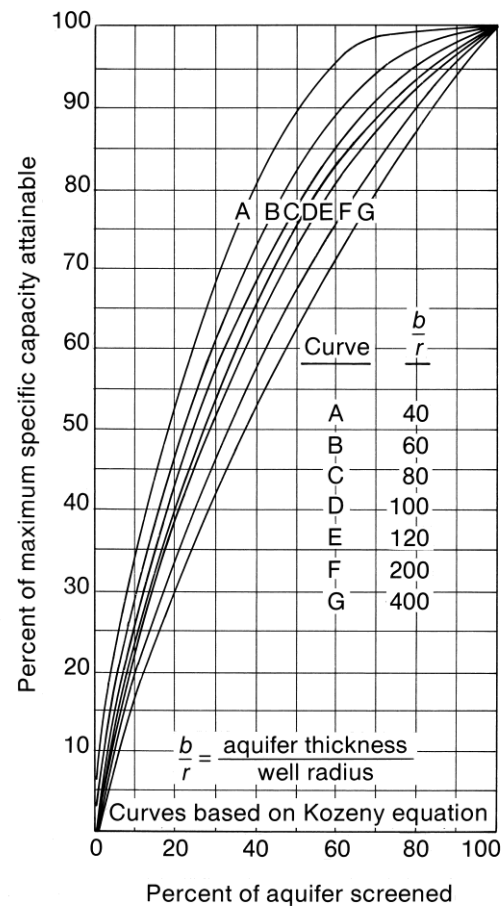
“ Everything should be made as simple as possible

– but no simpler”

--Albert Einstein

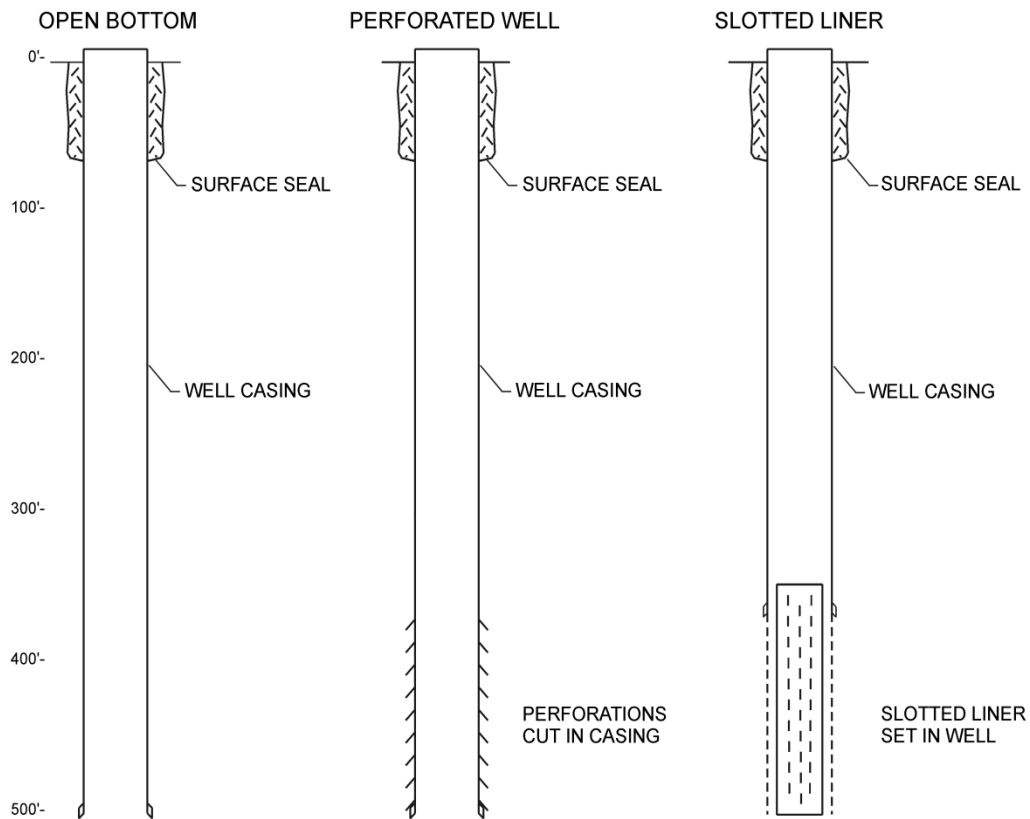
The Barefoot well may be the “ but no simpler” part

CHEAP CAN BE EXPENSIVE





PERFORATIONS AND LINERS



They are cheaper but at what cost?





WELL SCREENS ADD VALUE

Screens = open area

= lower entrance velocity

= better production

= lower operational cost





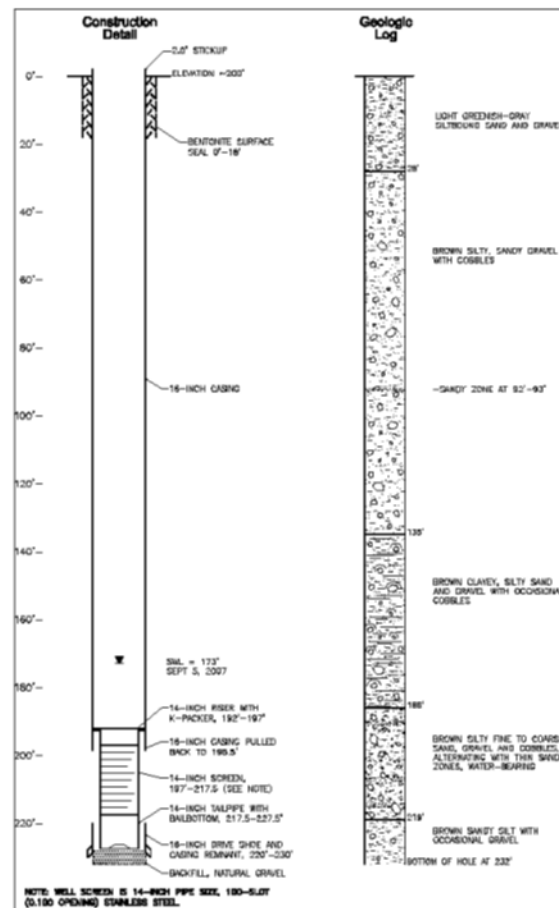
DIRECT SCREEN METHOD

Use your samples and your head

Don't get reckless – more length is usually better than a larger slot size

Risers, tail pipe & packers

Put it in the right place (and leave it there)





THE COST OF AN INEFFICIENT WELL

If the well is short on available drawdown –

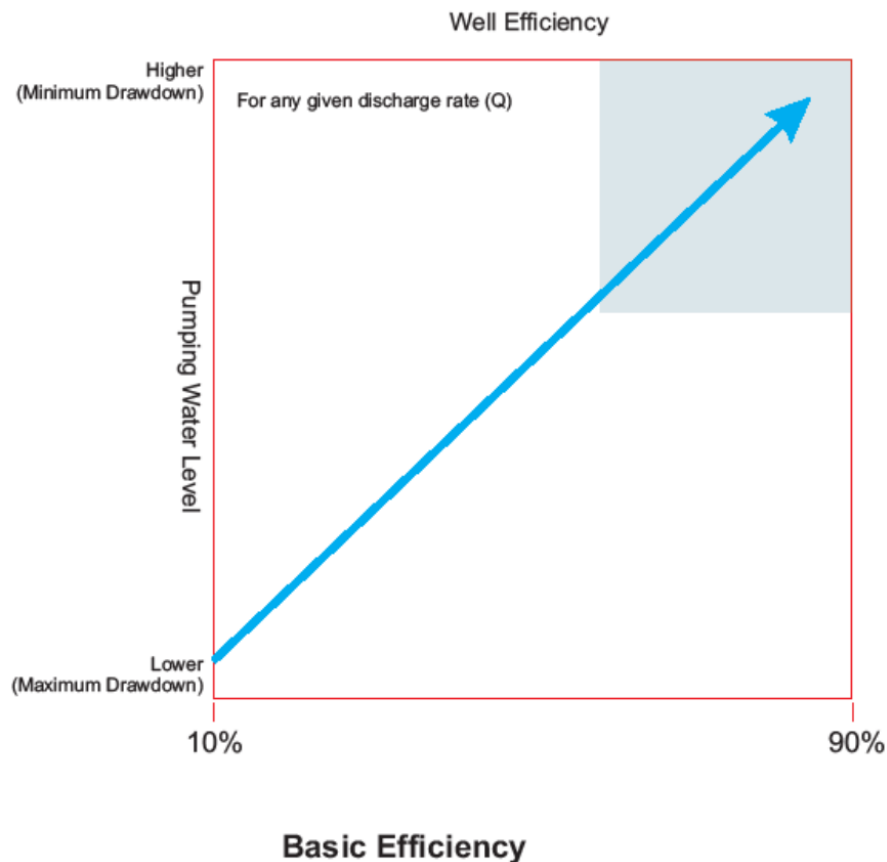
It costs you production
(100 gpm becomes 50 gpm)

If the well uses excessive drawdown –

It costs the customer money

Higher pumping costs

Higher maintenance costs





COMPLETION DECISIONS MATTER

Try to achieve both efficiency and reliability.

Your design should provide:

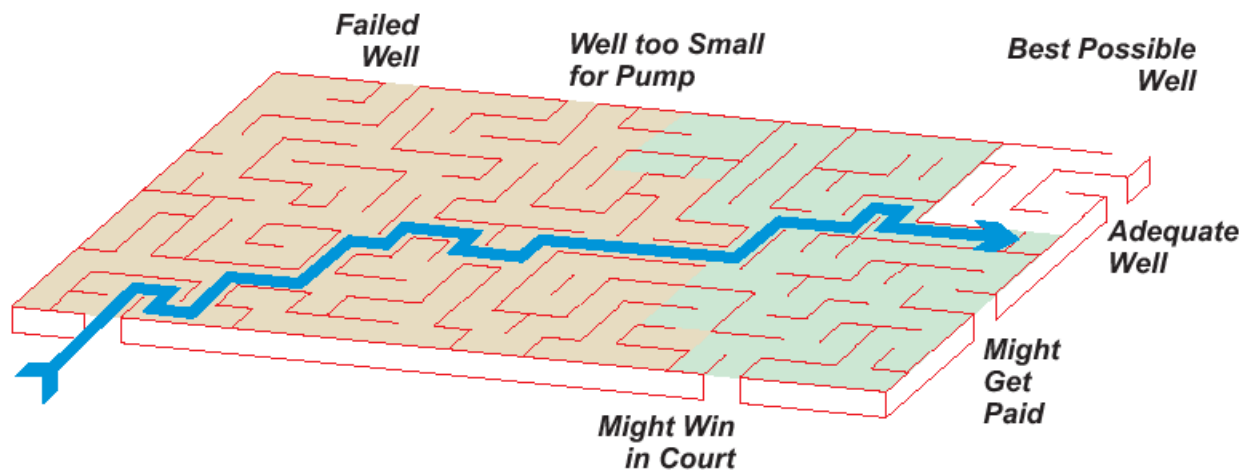
- Optimal efficiency and reliability
- Protection of the well and the pump
- Cost effective service throughout the operational life of the well

The cost of screens is generally a bargain.





WELL DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS



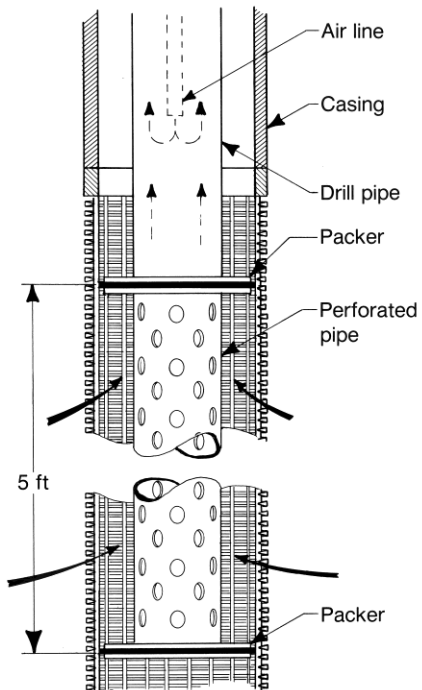
At what point am I wasting my time and their money?



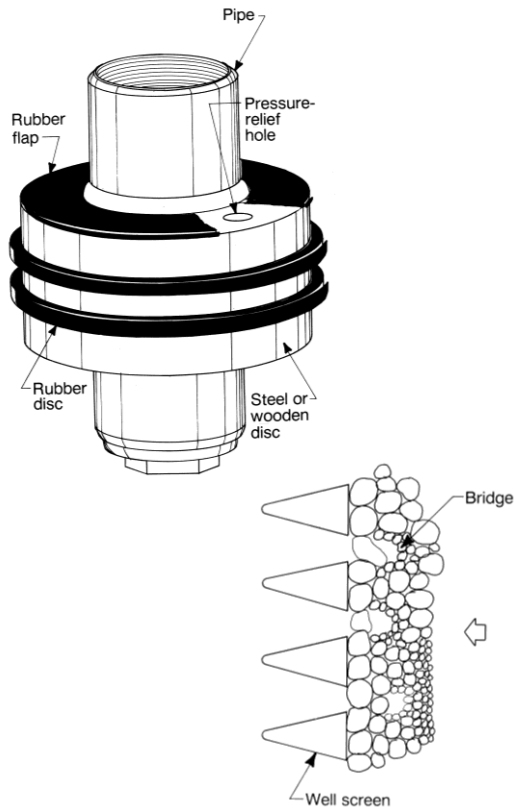


METHODS OF DEVELOPMENT

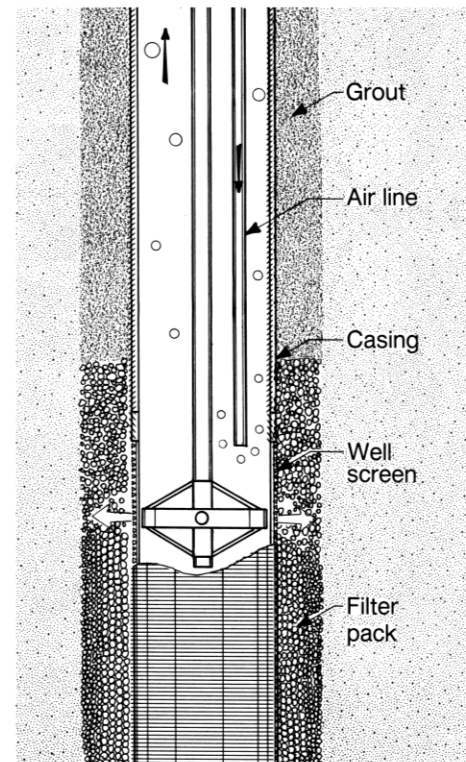
AIR LIFT



SURGE & BAIL



JETTING

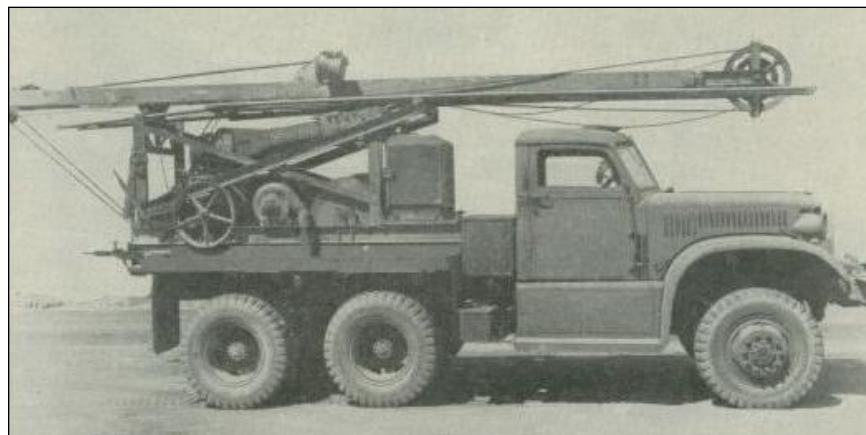




DURATION OF DEVELOPMENT

Earlier in my career:

Two weeks of surge
development was common



Nowadays:

A few hours of blowing
with air and it's good to go



Or is it?





HOW CAN YOU TELL WHEN YOU'RE DONE?

Comparative bailer or pumping tests

Does the same discharge have a higher pumping
water level than last time?

If so, you are not done!

Compare the development spoils – are they more “mature” ?

Has the well response stopped improving?

Surge runs no easier, air lift not producing any more
water





BENEFITS OF PROPER DEVELOPMENT

Well efficiency

Well stability

Stability during testing
(More accurate well rating)

Long-term reliability

Fewer problems with encrustation and biofouling?





WELL TESTING

Where the big answer comes from

Well testing is not about water;
it is about ***information***.

You must be able to project the
long-term well performance.

Only proper procedures and
accurate data can do that.





TEST PROCEDURES

Step tests

tell you about the well

Constant-rate tests

tell you about the aquifer

Observation wells

tell you more about both

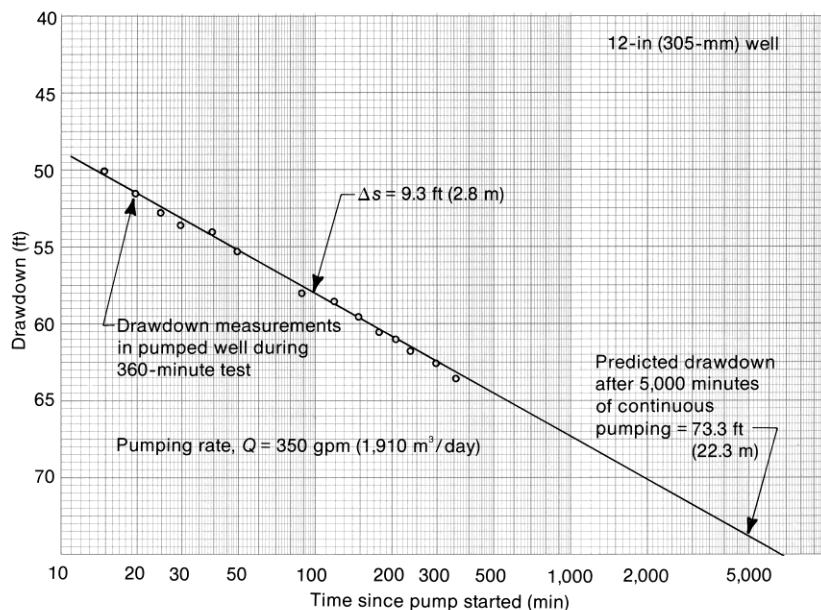
The more you know, the more accurately you rate the well



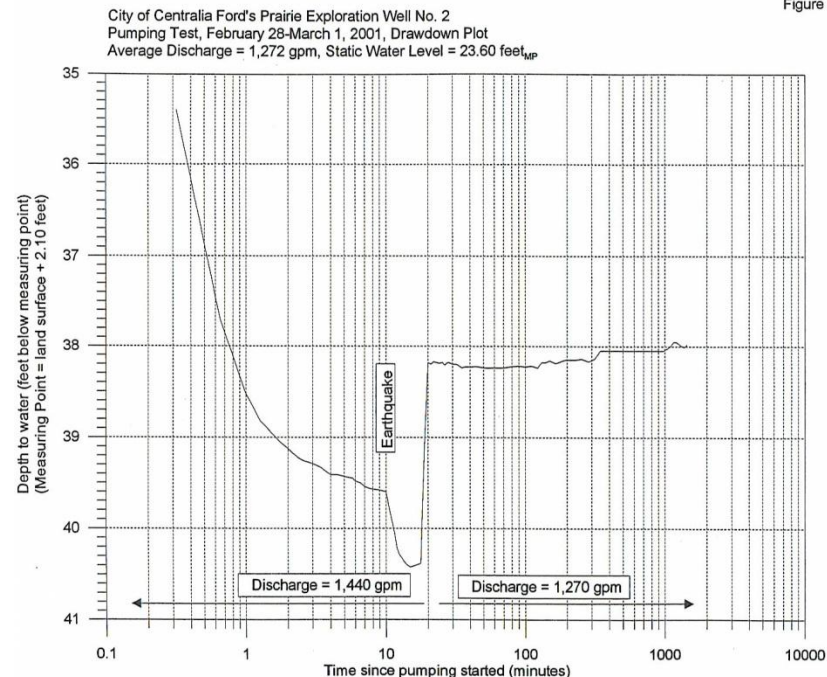


TEST DATA TELL THE TALE

Figure 5



Typical draw down plot



Earthquake during test

You never know what is going to happen, so keep good data.





WATER LEVEL RECOVERY DATA

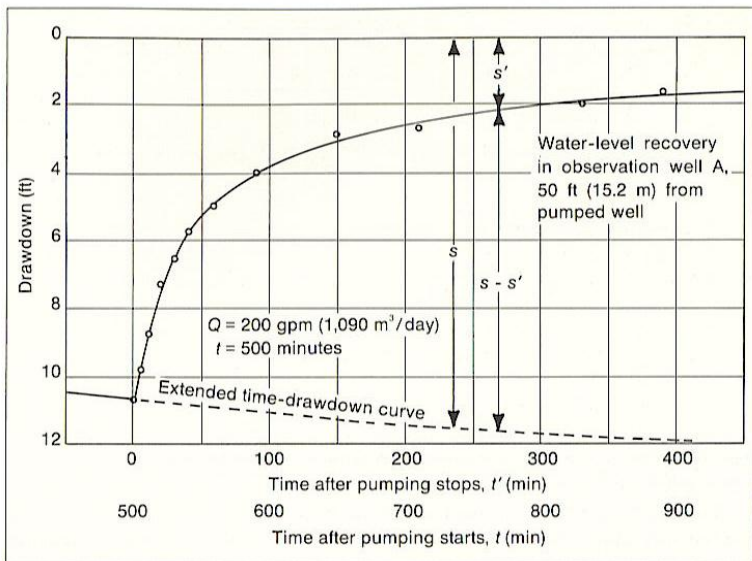


Figure 9.39. Residual-drawdown curve from observation well, with extended time-drawdown curve (on arithmetic scales) showing how calculated recovery is determined at any instant during the recovery period. Producing well pumped 200 gpm (1,090 m³/day) for 500 minutes.

Linear recovery plot

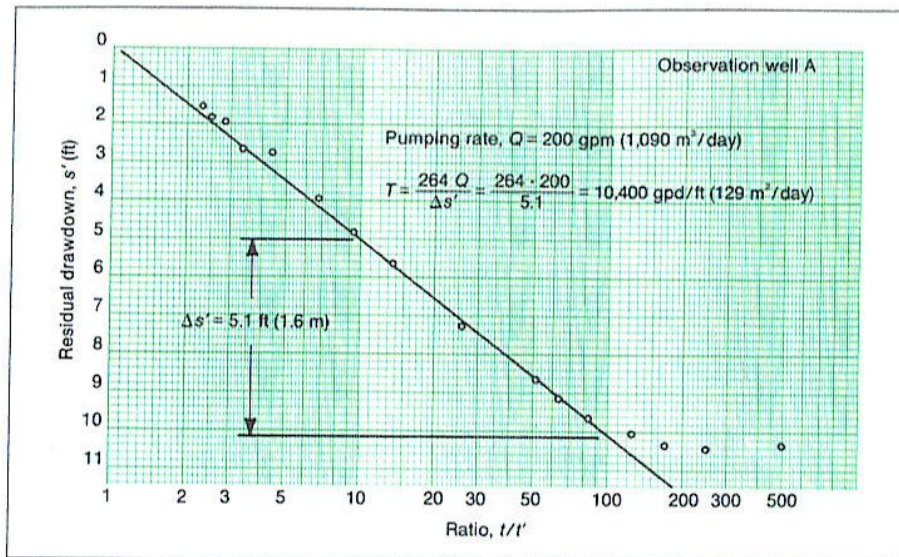


Figure 9.41. Residual drawdown plotted against the ratio t/t' becomes a straight line on semilog graph and permits calculation of transmissivity as shown. Time during recovery period increases toward the left in this diagram.

t/t' recovery plot





RATING THE WELL

Does the drawdown hold its pattern?

Is the drawdown less than would be expected?
(Indication of positive boundary)

Is drawdown more than expected?
(Negative boundary)

Was recovery complete? Was it timely?

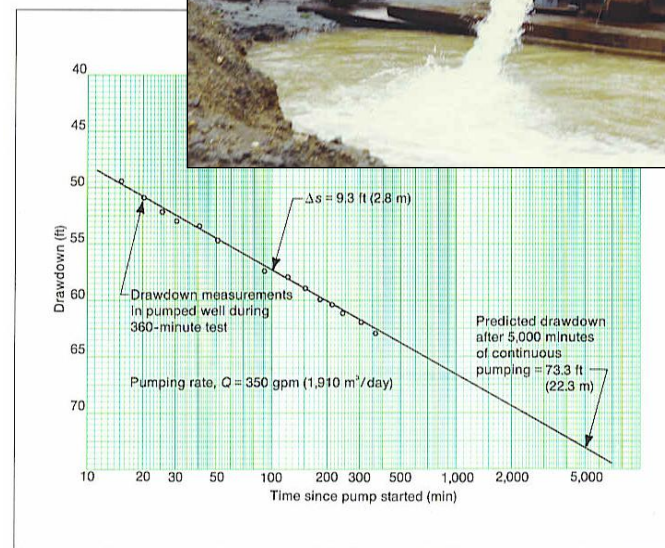


Figure 9.14. Time-drawdown graph for a pumped well (no recharge to aquifer) can be extended to predict drawdown for a period of continuous pumping longer than the test itself.





CLIENTS OPERATION OF THE WELL SECTIONS OF THE INFO PACKAGE

Well Operations section

Well construction report, screen info, development records, testing data, use recommendations

Pump Information section

Pump recommendations or description of equipment installed, electrical info, max allowable draw down, probes & settings

Water level info and directions for measurement

Info for regulatory agencies





CLIENTS REGULATORY NEEDS & DEFINITION OF PROPERTY

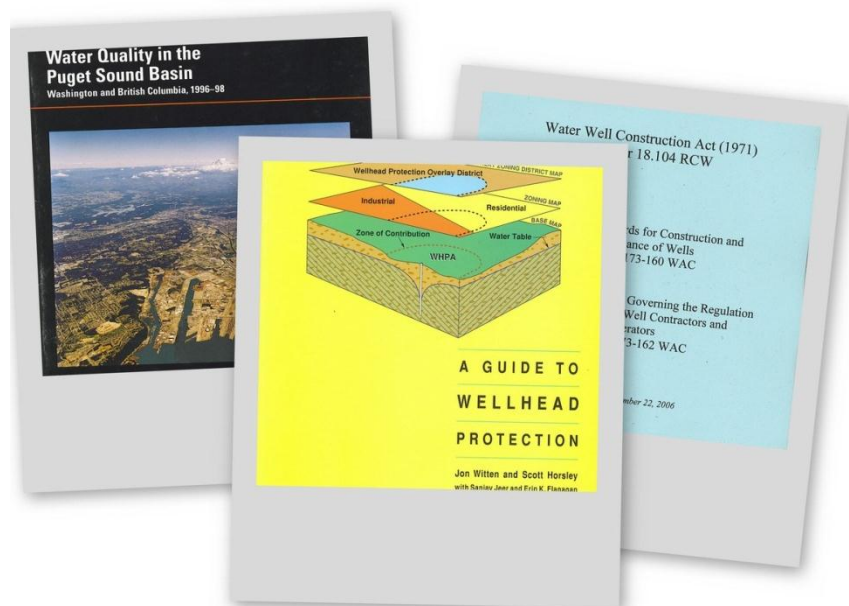
Provide information needed to:

Demonstrate siting
compliance

Meet regulatory submittal
needs

Support wellhead protection
planning

Meet health department
requirements





SUMMARY

Before you quote the job, do the whole job in your head.

Drill as much of the aquifer as is practical.

Design the well for maximum efficiency.

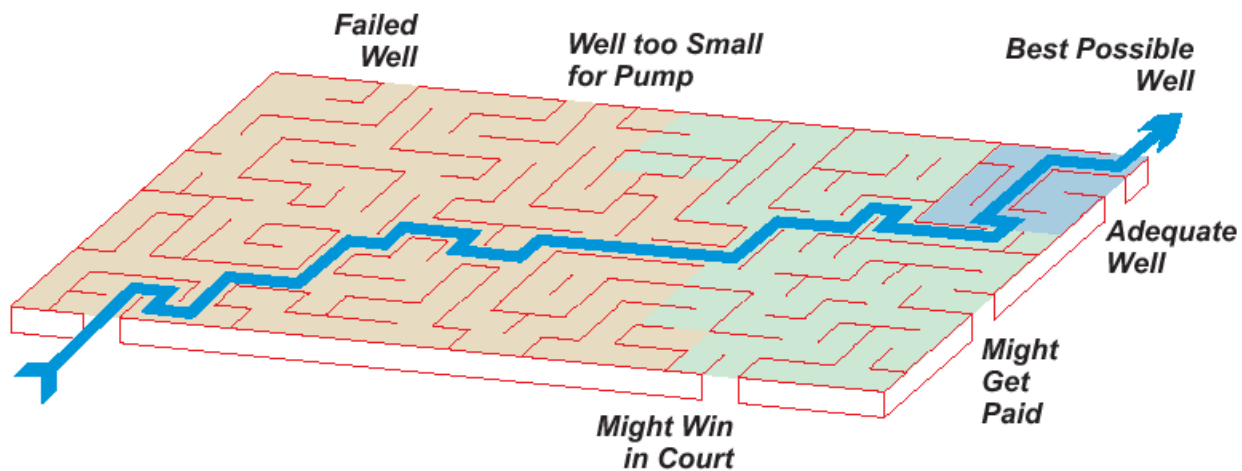
Develop the well until it is done.

Test the well sufficiently and report it all in writing





GOOD DECISIONS MAKE GOOD WELLS THE WORLD IS WET - LIFE IS SWEET



Best possible well
Happiest possible customer
Strongest possible business





Contact Information

Thank you for the opportunity and the honor
of addressing you as the
2008 McElhiney Distinguished Lecturer

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National Ground Water Research and Educational Foundation



Your vital and integral resource for ground water's future

Established in 1994, the National Ground Water Research and Educational Foundation is operated by the National Ground Water Association as a 501(c)(3) public foundation and is focused on conducting educational, research, and other charitable activities related to a broader public understanding of ground water.

The Foundation is an arm of NGWA that is focused on activities related to a broader understanding of ground water.





National Ground Water Research and Educational Foundation



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