

KANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
OPEN-FILE REPORT 82-2

Geohydrology of Southwestern Butler County, Kansas:

A Preliminary Report

by

Howard G. O'Connor
Pamela Chaffee
Martha Link

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KANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1930 Constant Avenue
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66047

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8-11-82

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Prepared at the Request of the

Butler County Commissioners,

County Engineer, and County Zoning Administrator

Kansas Geological Survey

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May 1982

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A Preliminary Report

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Introduction

At the request of the Butler County Commission, a meeting was arranged with the Kansas Geological Survey to discuss what kinds of assistance or useful hydrogeologic information could be provided to the County Commissioners, County Engineer, and County Zoning Administrator to assist them in administering their responsibilities.

A meeting was held at the Kansas Geological Survey's Foley Geohydrology Center on march 23, 1982 attended by the following persons:

John Tipton - Butler County Zoning Administrator

Ted Farmer - Butler County Engineer

Tom M. Linot - Butler County Commission

J. W. Simmons - Butler County Commission

Eldon Phillips - Butler County Commission

William W. Hambleton, Director - Kansas Geological Survey

Jane Denne, Geologist - Kansas Geological Survey

Howard G. O'Connor, Geologist - Kansas Geological Survey

Manoutch Heidari, Civil Engineer - Kansas Geological Survey

Pat Cobb, Hydrologist - Kansas Geological Survey

The county officials described the rapid growth in the suburban and rural areas which are not served by public water supplies and sewers. Their problem is in knowing how to respond to developers and individuals who want to construct homes in the rural and small tract subdivision developments. The

county officials needs are for reliable information about the soils, geology, and the quantity and quality of groundwater available so that they can develop meaningful rules, regulations, and policies which will protect the public health and property values and promote orderly growth. This information is needed for all of the county, but especially southwestern Butler County where small tract development is most rapid and problems are greatest.

Dr. Hambleton responded with a summary of the kinds of information that is available at the Kansas Geological Survey. The staff is fully committed to projects already in progress and institutional and funding restrictions are such that we could not move any staff into a Butler County research project now or in the very near future. He indicated some work was done in Butler county in the early and mid 1960's. Some of the data was published in USGS Water Supply Paper 1982, "Chemical Quality of Water in the Walnut River Basin, South-Central Kansas," but much of the groundwater data remains unpublished.

The county officials asked if the Kansas Geological Survey could provide any kind of interim report for the southwest part of Butler county, their area of greatest need, based only on data already available. Dr. Hambleton agreed to assign one staff member and one or more part-time graduate research assistants to prepare a preliminary report on the geohydrology of an area two townships wide by four townships tall (R3 and 4E, T26, 27, 28, and 29S) in the southwest part of Butler County as quickly as possible.

Following a review of the in-house data, it was agreed to prepare a brief interpretative report, supplemented by maps and tables. The interpretative report and any recommendations deemed advisable would be presented by one of the Kansas Geological Survey staff at a meeting with the Butler County officials as soon as possible and be available to answer questions.

A project proposal for a full-scale study of Butler County, together with a time schedule and cost estimate for the complete study would also be prepared. Dr. Hambleton indicated that Kansas law allows financial cooperative agreements between counties, through the county commissions, and the Kansas Geological Survey (KSA 76-326a). Cooperative financial support by the county would allow KGS to hire additional staff and allow an earlier start of the project.

Geologic Framework

The rocks which contain fresh or useable water are of Quaternary and Permian age. Quaternary rocks are relatively young rocks (less than 2 million years old) and are shown in Plate 1 as the alluvium in the stream valleys and as thin loess or wind laid silt deposits in parts of Township 26, 28, and 29S, R3E.

The thickness and water bearing characteristics of the alluvium and loess deposits are summarized in Table 1 and Figure 2.

The Permian rocks, about 270 million years old, consist of more or less flat lying to gently sloping alternating layers of shale and limestone beds. They have a regional slope of about 20 feet per mile westward except along the Nemaha anticline (Fig. 1). The Permian rocks dip or slope more steeply westward along the west side of the Nemaha anticline and slope eastward along the east side of the anticline. The Nemaha anticline is the principal local structure in the study area.

The shale beds of the Wellington Formation (Sumner Group) consist principally of gray and greenish shale beds but also include thin limestone and gypsum beds. Below the Wellington Formation, in downward sequence are the

TABLE 1: Generalized Section of Outcropping Rock Units in Southwestern Butler County and Their Water-Bearing Characteristics

System	Series	Group	Formation	Thickness (ft)	Character	Water Supply
Quaternary	Pleistocene		Alluvium	0-50	Silt, clay, limestone and chert sand and gravel fragments.	Small (0-10 gpm) to moderate (10-100 gpm). Yields of generally good, but locally poor quality water in principal stream valleys. Locally polluted by past oil & gas activities.
			Loess	0-10	Wind laid deposits of silt on upland areas.	Lies above water table and yields no water to wells.
			Wellington	0-100	Light gray and green silty shale contain thin limestone and gypsum beds. Contains the Hollenberg Limestone	Small to moderate quantities of generally hard water is obtained from permeable thin limestones and gypsum beds.
Permian	Lower Permian		Nolans Limestone	20-30	Light-buff limestone & dolomite in upper part. Sandy dolomitic appearance; contains silicious geodes, locally chert nodules. Middle part blue to gray shale, lower few feet is gray limestone or limestone & shale.	Yields moderate quantities of groundwater to many wells from solution channels in the upper limestone bed.
			Odell Shale	30-40	Chiefly gray & green calcareous shale. Locally dolomitic in the upper and middle part.	Yields little groundwater to wells.
			Winfield Limestone	20-30	Light blue to white thin bedded limestone overlying massive light buff limestone; locally contains chert nodules.	Yields small to moderate supplies of water to wells from solution zones.

	Doyle Shale	85-95	<p>Upper Gage Shale Member is gray, green, and red clay shale, calcareous at top. Thickness about 40-50 feet. Middle Towanda Limestone Member is about 5-15 feet thick, buff to gray, locally gypsiferous.</p>	<p>Yields small to moderate supplies from permeable zones in the Towanda Limestone. Water may be high in sulfate.</p>
Barneston Limestone	75-85		<p>The upper Ft. Riley Limestone member is 45-55 feet thick & consists of both massive & thin bedded limestone. Lower Florence Limestone member is 25-35 feet thick, gray to buff limestone interbedded with chert.</p>	<p>Yields small to large supplies of water from fractures and solution channels. Supplies water to many</p>
Matfield Shale	60t		<p>Upper and lower gray, green & maroon shale beds separated by about 15 feet of limestone and gray limey shale.</p>	<p>May yield small supplies of water to wells from the middle limestone beds.</p>

GENERALIZED STRATIGRAPHIC COLUMN OF OUTCROPPING
ROCKS (MODIFIED AFTER BAYNE, 1962)

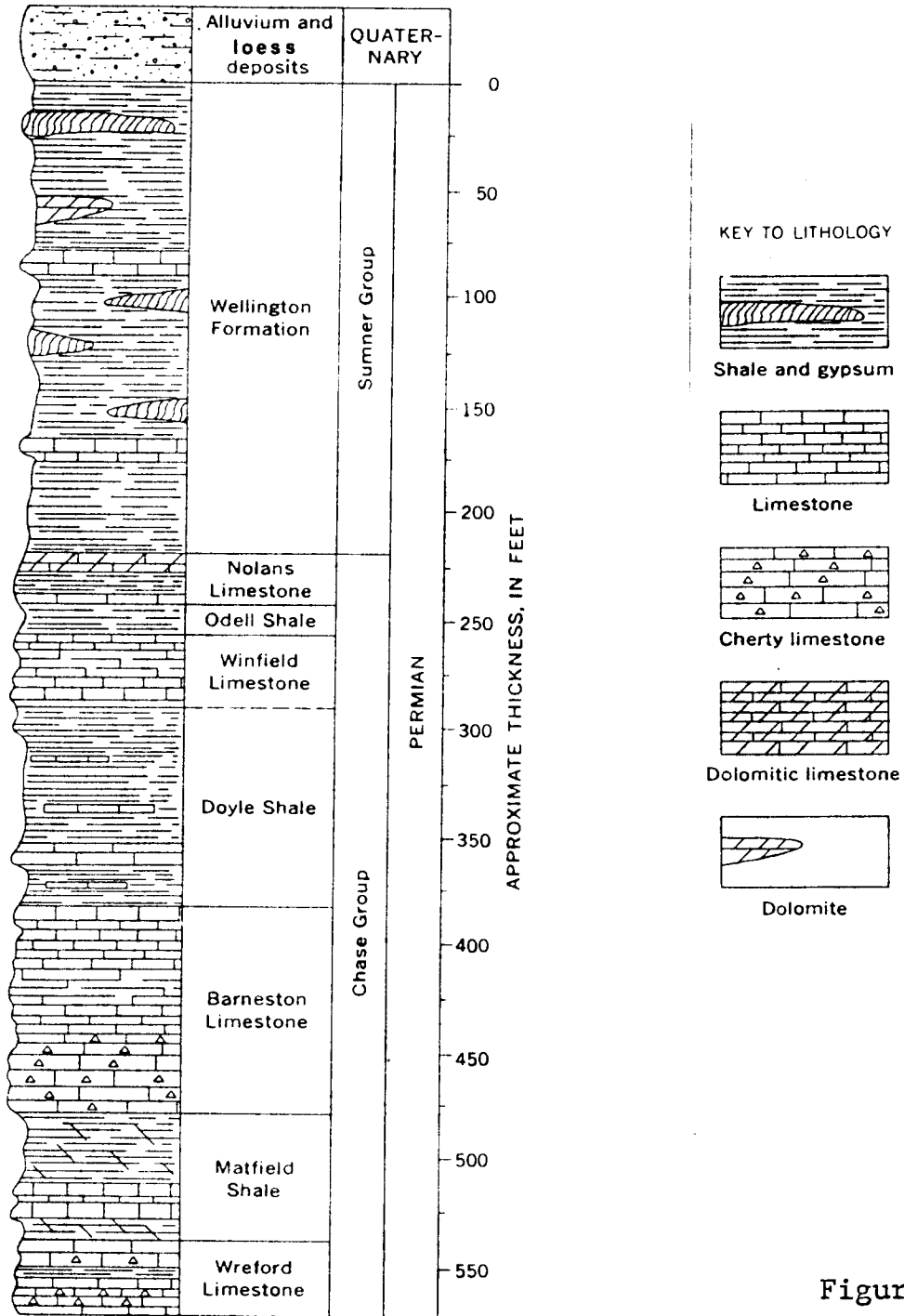


Figure 2.

Nolans Limestone, Odell Shale, Winfield Limestone, Doyle Shale, Barneston Limestone and Matfield Shale, all parts of the Chase Group of rocks (Fig. 2). These are the units considered to provide the domestic water supplies of the area. The thickness and general character of the rocks are shown in Table 1 and Figure 2.

Each of the major limestone units contains one or more zones having significant solution permeability and the Nolans and Barnestone Limestone contain zones having abundant chert or silicious concretions. The Towanda Limestone member of the Doyle Shale may be gypsiferous and locally contains solution permeability. The shale units consist of gray, green, tan and red silty to calcareous shales, thin limestones and locally gypsum beds, but below a depth of about 50 feet are considered relatively impermeable or of very low permeability with respect to vertical groundwater flow.

Regional Hydrology

Groundwater suitable for domestic and stock use occurs in both the unconsolidated Quaternary alluvial stream valley deposits, and the consolidated Permian limestone and shales at maximum depths ranging from about 100 to 175 feet. The limestone have two dominant sets of fractures trending northeast and northwest as shown on Figure 1. The ability of the fractures to store and transmit groundwater is greater where the rocks are at or near the land surface (< 30 feet) because various weathering processes tend to cause the fractures to open or to enlarge as a result of solution of the rock by moving groundwater. In addition, at depths below about 30 to 50 feet there are one or more primary permeable zones in nearly all of the thicker limestone units such as the Nolans, Winfield, Towanda and Barnestone limestones. Horizontal or nearly horizontal primary solution permeability zones developed

soon after the limestones were deposited and consolidated, but before they were deeply buried. Because the primary horizontal solution zones in the limestones have not removed all of the limestone in the solutioned zone, every small diameter bore hole drilled through the solutioned zone may not penetrate a water filled solution channel or interconnected voids. These zones may contain rather significant quantities of water adequate for reliable domestic and stock supplies.

For example if we have a one-foot thick zone with 15 percent of the limestone removed by solution leaving 15 percent of the one-foot zone as void space filled with water in solution channels, we would have almost 50,000 gallons of water stored in this zone under each acre of land. Typically water wells which penetrate the primary solution zones may be expected to have small (1 to 10 gallons per minute [gpm]) to moderate (10 to 100 gpm) yields to properly constructed wells.

A review of more than 415 Water Well Records (WWC-5 forms) available for southwestern Butler County indicates many of the bore holes encounter 1, 2, or even 3 permeable water bearing zones. Four WWC-5 records are included as Figures 3-6 for reference. Figure 3 indicates three water-bearing zones were penetrated by this well; the upper water zone at 48 feet depth has been grouted out to exclude this water from the well. The lower two water-bearing zones have been hydraulically connected to contribute to the well yield by means of a permeable gravel pack around the casing from 58 to 138 feet depth and screen perforation intervals from 118 feet to 138 feet depth. Figure 6 shows a well which penetrates two water-bearing zones, at 65 feet and 104 feet. The water at 65 feet was grouted out of the well because this zone

NAME OF WATER WELL <i>Butler</i>	Fraction <i>SE 1/4 SE 1/4 SW 1/4</i>	Section Number <i>24</i>	Township Number <i>T 27 S</i>	Range Number <i>R 3 E</i>
-------------------------------------	---	-----------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------

and direction from nearest town or city? *3 1/2 mi. West of Augusta* Street address of well if located within city?

WELL OWNER: *B.J. STORPS*
 Address, Box #: *A3*
 ZIP Code: *Augusta KS 67010*
 Board of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources
 Application Number:

DEPTH OF COMPLETED WELL: *138* ft. Bore Hole Diameter: *8* in. to *138* ft., and ... in. to ... ft.
 to be used as:
 5 Public water supply 8 Air conditioning 11 Injection well
 3 Feedlot 6 Oil field water supply 9 Dewatering 12 Other (Specify below)
 4 Industrial 7 Lawn and garden only 10 Observation well
 Static water level: *76* ft. below land surface measured on *1* month *21* day *81* year
 Test Data: Well water was ... ft. after ... hours pumping ... gpm
 Well water was ... ft. after ... hours pumping ... gpm

TYPE OF BLANK CASING USED:
 5 Wrought iron 8 Concrete tile Casing Joints: Glued Clamped
 Steel 3 RMP (SR) 6 Asbestos-Cement 9 Other (specify below) Welded
 PVC 4 ABS 7 Fiberglass Threaded
 Casing dia: *5* in. to *118* ft., Dia ... in. to ... ft., Dia ... in. to ... ft.
 Weight above land surface: *14* in., weight ... lbs./ft. Wall thickness or gauge No. *160.16*

SCREEN OR PERFORATION MATERIAL:
 7 PVC 10 Asbestos-cement
 3 Stainless steel 5 Fiberglass 8 RMP (SR) 11 Other (specify)
 4 Galvanized steel 6 Concrete tile 9 ABS 12 None used (open hole)
 Perforation Openings Are:
 5 Gauzed wrapped 6 Saw cut 11 None (open hole)
 3 Mill slot 6 Wire wrapped 9 Drilled holes
 Covered shutter 4 Key punched 7 Torch cut 10 Other (specify)
 Perforation Dia: *5* in. to *138* ft., Dia ... in. to ... ft., Dia ... in. to ... ft.
 Perforated Intervals: From *118* ft. to *138* ft., From ... ft. to ... ft., From ... ft. to ... ft.
 Back Intervals: From *138* ft. to *58* ft., From ... ft. to ... ft., From ... ft. to ... ft.

CEMENT MATERIAL:
 1 Neat cement Cement grout 3 Bentonite 4 Other
 Intervals: From *56* ft. to *46* ft., From *13* ft. to *3* ft., From ... ft. to ... ft.
 The nearest source of possible contamination:
 4 Cess pool 7 Sewage lagoon 10 Fuel storage 14 Abandoned water well
 5 Seepage pit 8 Feed yard 11 Fertilizer storage 15 Oil well/Gas well
 6 Pit privy 9 Livestock pens 12 Insecticide storage 16 Other (specify below)
 from well: *E.* How many feet *75*? Water Well Disinfected? Yes No
 Chemical/bacteriological sample submitted to Department? Yes No If yes, date sample
 submitted ... month ... day ... year: Pump Installed? Yes No
 Pump Manufacturer's name: Model No. HP Volts
 Pump Intake ... ft. Pumps Capacity rated at ... gal./min.
 Pump: 1 Submersible 2 Turbine 3 Jet 4 Centrifugal 5 Reciprocating 6 Other

CONTRACTOR'S OR LANDOWNER'S CERTIFICATION: This water well was (1) constructed, (2) reconstructed, or (3) plugged under my jurisdiction and was
 on *1* month *21* day *81* year
 record is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Kansas Water Well Contractor's License No. *313*
 Well Record was completed on *1* month *23* day *81* year under the business
Braddy water wells by (signature) *Richard Braddy*

WELL'S LOCATION AND "X" IN SECTION	FROM	TO	LITHOLOGIC LOG	FROM	TO	LITHOLOGIC LOG
	0	1	Top Soil			
	1	6	Clay Redish brown			
	6	8	clay yellow			
	8	22	Limestone yellow			
	22	53	Shale yellow gray			
	53	71	Shale gray			
	71	94	Limestone yellow			
	94	113	Shale yellow gray			
	113	128	Shale Rusty Red			
	128	138	Shale gray			

Figure 3.

Groundwater Encountered 1. *48* ft. 2. *105* ft. 3. *128* ft. 4. ... ft. (Use a second sheet if needed)

INSTRUCTIONS: Use typewriter or ball point pen, please press firmly and PRINT clearly. Please fill in blanks, underline or circle the correct answers. Send top three copies to Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Division of Environment, Water Well Contractors, Topeka, KS 66620. Send one to WATER WELL OWNER and one to records.

OFFICE USE ONLY

USE TYPEWRITER OR BALL POINT PEN—PRESS FIRMLY, PRINT CLEARLY.

WATER WELL RECORD
KSA 82a-1201-1215

Kansas Department of Health and Environment—Division of Environment
(Water well Contractors)
Topeka, Kansas 66620

Location of well:	County Butler	Fraction NE 1/4 NW 1/4 NE 1/4	Section number 26	Township number T 27 S R 3	Range number 3	EW
2. Distance and direction from nearest town or city: 4 1/4 West			3. Owner of well: A. J. Laham			
Street address of well location if in city: Augusta Kans			R.R. or street: 204 Sunflower			
			City, state, zip code: Augusta Kansas			
4. Locate with "X" in section below:		Sketch map:		6. Bore hole dia. 10 in. Completion date _____ Well depth 80 ft. 6-22-1976		
N				7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cable tool ___ Rotary ___ Driven ___ Dug ___ Hollow rod ___ Jetted ___ Bored ___ Reverse rotary		
W ————— E				8. Use: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domestic ___ Public supply ___ Industry ___ Irrigation ___ Air conditioning ___ Stack ___ Lawn ___ Oil field water ___ Other		
S		1 Mile		9. Casing: Material galv Height (Above) or below Threaded ___ Welded galv Surface 15 in. RMP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PVC galv Weight _____ lbs./ft. Dia. 6 in. to 80 ft. depth Wall Thickness: inches or Dia. ___ in. to ___ ft. depth gage No. 175		
5. Type and color of material		From	To	10. Screen: Manufacturer's name gfe Type RMP Dia. 6 Slip/gauge 410 Length 20 Set between 60 ft. and 80 ft. _____ ft. and _____ ft. Gravel pack? no Size range of material _____		
	yellow clay	0	13	11. Static water level: _____ mo./day/yr. 41 ft. below land surface Date 6-22-1976		
	grey lime	13	24	12. Pumping level below land surfaces: _____ ft. after _____ hrs. pumping _____ g.p.m. _____ ft. after _____ hrs. pumping _____ g.p.m. Estimated maximum yield 20 g.p.m.		
	yellow lime	24	37	13. Water sample submitted: _____ mo./day/yr. Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____ Date _____		
	blue shale	37	49	14. Well head completion: ___ Pitless adapter 15 inches above grade		
	grey lime	49	68	15. Well grouted? yes With: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neat cement ___ Bentonite ___ Concrete Depth: From 3 ft. to 13 ft.		
	water	68		16. Nearest source of possible contamination: ft. 125 Direction West Type Septic system Well disinfected upon completion? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes ___ No		
	grey lime	68	80	17. Pump: _____ Not installed Manufacturer's name Houlders Model number 10E-J HP 1/2 Volts 230 Length of drop pipe 75 ft. capacity 10 g.p.m. Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submersible ___ Turbine ___ Jet ___ Reciprocating ___ Centrifugal ___ Other		
18. Elevation:		19. Remarks:		20. Water well contractor's certification: This well was drilled under my jurisdiction and this report is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Wike Well drilling 122 Business name _____ License No. _____ Address Rt 3 Box 1284 Augusta Signed Thurman Wike Date 6-22-1976 Authorized representative		

Figure 4.

(Use a second sheet if needed)

Topography:
___ Hill
___ Slope
 Upland
___ Valley

27
 30
 26
 Sec
 1/4 NE 1/4 NE

Forward the white, blue and pink copies to the Department of Health and Environment

Form WWC-5

LOCATION OF WATER WELL: Rutler Fraction: NE 1/4 NW 1/4 SE 1/4 Section Number: 24 Township Number: T 27 S Range Number: R 3 E 1/4

Distance and direction from nearest town or city? 3 W. 1/2 N. 1/4 N. of Augusta KS Street address of well if located within city?

WATER WELL OWNER: Lyndon H Roberts
 St. Address, Box #: R3 Box 105H Board of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources
 State, ZIP Code: Augusta KS 67010 Application Number:

DEPTH OF COMPLETED WELL: 119 ft. Bore Hole Diameter: 8 1/2 in. to 119 ft., and _____ in. to _____ ft.

Water to be used as:
 5 Public water supply 8 Air conditioning 11 Injection well
 3 Feedlot 6 Oil field water supply 9 Dewatering 12 Other (Specify below)
 4 Industrial 7 Lawn and garden only 10 Observation well
 Static water level: 85 ft. below land surface measured on 1 month 2 day 80 year
 Test Data: Well water was _____ ft. after _____ hours pumping _____ gpm
 Yield gpm: Well water was _____ ft. after _____ hours pumping _____ gpm

TYPE OF BLANK CASING USED:
 1 Steel 3 RMP (SR) 5 Wrought iron 8 Concrete tile Casing Joints: Glued Clamped _____
 2 PVC 4 ABS 6 Asbestos-Cement 9 Other (specify below) Welded _____
 7 Fiberglass Threaded _____
 Casing dia: 5 in. to 99 ft., Dia _____ in. to _____ ft., Dia _____ in. to _____ ft.
 Casing height above land surface: 14 in., weight _____ lbs./ft. Wall thickness or gauge No. 14"

TYPE OF SCREEN OR PERFORATION MATERIAL:
 1 Steel 3 Stainless steel 5 Fiberglass 8 RMP (SR) 10 Asbestos-cement 11 Other (specify) _____
 2 Brass 4 Galvanized steel 6 Concrete tile 9 ABS 12 None used (open hole)
 Screen or Perforation Openings Are:
 1 Continuous slot 3 Mill slot 5 Gauzed wrapped Saw cut 11 None (open hole)
 2 Louvered shutter 4 Key punched 6 Wire wrapped 9 Drilled holes
 7 Torch cut 10 Other (specify) _____
 Screen-Perforation Dia: 5 in. to 119 ft., Dia _____ in. to _____ ft., Dia _____ in. to _____ ft.
 Screen-Perforated Intervals: From 99 ft. to 119 ft., From _____ ft. to _____ ft., From _____ ft. to _____ ft.
 Well Pack Intervals: From 119 ft. to 85 ft., From 55 ft. to 15 ft., From _____ ft. to _____ ft.

ROUTING MATERIAL:
 1 Neat cement 2 Cement grout 3 Bentonite 4 Other _____
 Sealed Intervals: From 85 ft. to 55 ft., From 15 ft. to 4 ft., From _____ ft. to _____ ft.

Is the nearest source of possible contamination:
 Septic tank 4 Cess pool 7 Sewage lagoon 11 Fertilizer storage 14 Abandoned water well
 Sewer lines 5 Seepage pit 8 Feed yard 12 Insecticide storage 15 Oil well/Gas well
 3 Lateral lines 6 Pit privy 9 Livestock pens 13 Watertight sewer lines 16 Other (specify below) _____
 Contamination from well: N How many feet 70' +/- 7' lines Water Well Disinfected? Yes No
 Has a chemical/bacteriological sample submitted to Department? Yes No If yes, date sample submitted 1 month 2 day 80 year Pump Installed? Yes _____ No
 Pump Manufacturer's name _____ Model No. _____ HP _____ Volts _____
 Type of Pump Intake _____ ft. Pumps Capacity rated at _____ gal./min.
 Type of pump: 1 Submersible 2 Turbine 3 Jet 4 Centrifugal 5 Reciprocating 6 Other

CONTRACTOR'S OR LANDOWNER'S CERTIFICATION: This water well was (1) constructed, (2) reconstructed, or (3) plugged under my jurisdiction and was completed on _____ month _____ day _____ year.
 This record is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Kansas Water Well Contractor's License No. 363
 Water Well Record was completed on _____ month _____ day _____ year under the business of Brady Water Wells by (signature) Richard Brady

LOCATE WELL'S LOCATION WITH AN "X" IN SECTION BOX:	FROM	TO	LITHOLOGIC LOG	FROM	TO	LITHOLOGIC LOG
	0	2	Fill Fill Dirt			The water at 65' has 4260 chloride and was cemented out for this reason.
	2	3	Top soil			
	3	5	clay brown			
	5	11	clay Reddish brown			
	11	20	Limestone yellow			
	20	40	Shale yellow green			
	40	82	Shale with limestone yellow			
	82	103	Shale Pasty Red			
	103	Limestone light gray				
	105	Shale gray				

(s) Groundwater Encountered 1. 65 ft. 2. 104 ft. 3. _____ ft. 4. _____ ft. (Use a second sheet if needed)

INSTRUCTIONS: Use typewriter or ball point pen, please press firmly and PRINT clearly. Please fill in blanks, underline or circle the correct answers. Send top three to Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Division of Environment, Water Well Contractors, Topeka, KS 66620. Send one to WATER WELL OWNER and one to your records.

contained water having 4,760 mg/l chloride which would make it unfit for domestic use. The water in the 104 foot zone apparently was of satisfactory quality because it is used for domestic purposes.

Figure 4 describes an 80-foot well penetrating only one permeable water-bearing zone at 68 feet depth. The well was drilled with a cable tool or percussion drilling rig, drilling a 10-inch diameter hole. Six-inch diameter casing was set to the full depth of the hole. The annular space between the sides of 10-inch hole and the outside of the 6-inch casing was grouted between 3 and 13 feet depth and the remainder of the annular space from 13 to 80 feet was left open. The limestone logged at 13 to 37 feet includes the Nolans limestone known to have one or more permeable zones and at this depth probably contains permeable open fractures. It apparently lies above the local water table or includes an intermittent water table in wet years. Hindsight suggests this well should have been grouted from 3 to about 40 feet depth to preclude entrance of any shallow groundwater in years of above average precipitation when a shallow zone of saturation may be present and contribute potentially poor quality water to the well.

Figure 5 represents a well in which either the written location (sec 21) or the reported legal location (sec 33) is in error. Based on geologic mapping of the area at either the written location or legal location, one or more of the Permian limestones should have been penetrated by a well 115 feet deep.

The quality of water obtained from the aquifers in southwest Butler County has been shown graphically in USGS Water Supply Paper 1982. Dissolved solids in groundwater ranges from less than 500 mg/l (very good) to nearly 3,000 mg/l (marginally acceptable) in wells used for domestic and stock purposes. Dissolved nitrate concentrations are relatively low in most wells

but are excessive for good drinking water in 10 to 20 percent of the wells. In some wells the dissolved sulfate (SO_4) exceeds the recommended limit of 250 mg/l for domestic water by 4 to 5 times, and probably reflects groundwater that is associated with dissolving gypsum beds. Groundwater high in sulfate also is very hard.

The chloride (Cl^-) content of groundwater generally is relatively low and below the recommended limit of 250 mg/l for drinking water in all of the groundwater aquifers except where they have been contaminated by oil field brines. Because of the extensive oil and gas developments in the years 1914 to 1945 when there were no regulations regarding disposal of oil field brines, both the area streams and many of the groundwater aquifers were extensively polluted. In general, the produced oil field brines are disposed of today in an acceptable way by deep disposal and the polluted streams and the quality of water in groundwater aquifers is improving as the brines are slowly flushed from the area aquifers.

Recharge and Discharge

Recharge occurs to the local aquifers primarily in response to local precipitation on the area. The area averages about 31 or 32 inches of precipitation annually. The amount of the precipitation that becomes groundwater recharge is not known, but has been estimated to be about 10 percent of the precipitation or about 3 inches annually. Plate 2 is a map showing the water table or potentiometric surface for southwestern Butler County and the location of water wells and stream elevations used for construction of the map. The water table or potentiometric surface generally is a relatively smooth surface which slopes toward the area streams. Groundwater discharge provides the base flow of the streams.

Some areas such as the vicinity of Sec. 24, T27S, R3E present anomalies that are difficult to understand. The high water levels appear to indicate anomalous recharge. In another area near Santa Fe Lake the water table or potentiometric surface could not be contoured in a meaningful manner. Some of the contours in the valley areas seem displaced or skewed.

Considering that the data used (>415 WWC-5 records) represented water levels taken at different times between 1975 and 1982, that some water well locations were inaccurate, that some water levels represent resultant water levels of two or more hydraulically connected aquifers, and that absolutely nothing was checked or verified by field work, the map was more successful than originally anticipated. No long-term hydrographs or historical water level records were available.

Summary and Recommendations

Southwestern Butler County is underlain by Quaternary alluvial deposits in the stream valleys which contain generally good quality groundwater except where the aquifers have been polluted by brines associated with past production of oil and gas. The alluvium generally provides small to moderate yields to wells 30 to 50 feet deep in the principal valley areas. The Quaternary loess deposits lie above the water table and are not aquifers.

The Permian rocks comprise alternating shale and limestone beds and include the Wellington Formation, Nolans Limestone, Odell Shale, Winfield Limestone, Doyle Shale, Barneston Limestone, and Matfield Shale that provide groundwater suitable for domestic and stock water supplies. Wells may be as deep as 175 feet. The Wellington Formation is fairly extensive at the surface

in the western part of the study area. It contains thin limestone and gypsum beds which provide small to moderate yields of hard water and locally water high in SO_4 to domestic and stock wells.

The Nolans, Winfield, and Barneston limestones each contain one or more permeable water zones that produce small to moderate yields to wells where the permeable zones are below the water table or in the zone of saturation. The water quality ranges from very good to marginally acceptable in terms of dissolved solids, sulfate, and chloride values. Typically groundwaters associated with dissolving gypsum beds may have dissolved solids and sulfate values in the higher range of values but such water can be used if better is not available.

An evaluation of the available Water Well Records indicates many are incorrectly located, have poor lithologic descriptions, and the wells are constructed to meet the minimum standards set by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment rather than to best fit the problems of the local geology. Many of the wells hydraulically interconnect two or more aquifers allowing water to flow upward or downward from one water zone to another. Because the shallower zones typically have higher water levels or hydraulic heads the shallow aquifers tend to drain to the deeper aquifers. Wherever well density is low, such as one well per 80 acres, hydraulically connecting two or more aquifers may not cause a significant problem. Where well density becomes greater as in small tract developments, having one well per 1 to 5 acres, wells hydraulically connecting two more aquifers may have a significant affect and may partially, completely, or intermittantly drain the shallow aquifer. Where small tract developments occur that utilize septic tank systems for waste disposal, an additional dissolved solids load to the shallow aquifer may be imposed resulting in increased dissolved solids, nitrate, and

chloride values. Techniques are available to calculate the kinds of residential spacing that should be maintained to provide acceptable increases in dissolved solids, nitrates and chloride to the shallow aquifer, but could not be determined in this preliminary report.

Well construction should receive more attention in small tract developments so that existing wells in the shallow aquifers are not drained and well construction should not allow hydraulic interconnection of aquifers by wells if such practices will cause detrimental effects to the local aquifers.

A number of local problems associated with past oil and gas activities, improper well plugging, hydraulic interconnection of aquifers, rate and direction of groundwater movement, water chemistry, aquifer properties (transmissivity and storage) need to be determined with a planned investigation that would involve field work, development of historical water level and water quality records, hydrographs, and recharge rate determinations. Depending on staffing and support for such a study, it is anticipated such a project would require 24 to 30 months for completion.

There is a need for an education and technical exchange program for the water well contractors to improve their understanding of problems and to provide better well construction and better quality Water Well Records.

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