

567—115.16(455B) Hydrogeologic investigation.

115.16(1) Groundwater level measurements. The elevation of the water table shall be determined at or near the location of each soil boring which penetrates the water table. The water table may be determined using a completed water table monitoring well, or piezometer. The bottom of a piezometer used to measure water table elevation shall be no more than 5 feet below the water table. The apparent horizontal groundwater flow direction shall be determined based on water table measurements. Vertical groundwater flow shall then be assessed in at least two profiles approximately parallel to the apparent horizontal flow direction. Vertical groundwater flow shall be assessed using at least two well clusters per profile. Each well cluster shall contain a water table monitoring well or piezometer and additional water level monitoring points based on site conditions as follows:

a. If the water table is in the uppermost aquifer, one additional water level monitoring point shall be located near the base of the aquifer or at least 20 feet below the base of the water table monitoring point. This additional monitoring point may not be required if the aquifer is less than 20 feet thick.

b. If the uppermost aquifer is less than 50 feet below the water table, an additional water level monitoring point shall be located at the top of the aquifer.

c. If the uppermost aquifer is more than 50 feet below the water table, additional water level monitoring points shall be placed at depths of 30 feet and 50 feet below the water table.

d. If required, the one deeper soil boring into bedrock shall be used as a site for one well cluster. Water table monitoring points in this cluster shall correspond to the other well cluster used for a profile. In addition, water level monitoring points shall be placed at the bottom of the boring and, if possible, at the top and bottom of the uppermost aquifer. Groundwater level measurements shall be made after the water levels have stabilized in the monitoring point; at least 24 hours after completion and bailing of the monitoring well, or installation of the piezometer. The water level in existing wells shall be observed and recorded prior to bailing. Each set of water level measurements shall be made in as short a time frame as possible not to exceed 8 hours.

115.16(2) In-situ permeability tests. In-situ permeability tests shall be conducted on each monitoring well and piezometer in each well cluster.

a. Pumping test. If more than one monitoring point is located in the uppermost aquifer, a pumping test shall be conducted at one or more upper aquifer monitoring points. A pumping test involves pumping at a constant rate from one well while observing water levels in other wells. The pumping rate shall be as high as possible without dewatering the well. Water level measurements in other uppermost aquifer wells shall be measured at frequent intervals near the start of the test and then at progressively longer intervals (e.g., 1-minute intervals to 10 minutes, 5-minute intervals to an hour, 15-minute intervals to 2 hours, and half-hour intervals thereafter). Continuous water level recording is preferable.

Water levels in wells not located in the uppermost aquifer shall be recorded throughout the test at regular intervals (e.g., every half hour). Water levels in all wells shall be measured 24 hours prior to the test and just before the test. The test duration shall be at least 4 hours and continue until a stabilized drawdown condition is observed. Longer tests may be necessary if other uppermost aquifer monitoring points are slow to respond. Water level readings shall be recorded through the recovery phase of the water table.

b. Bail and slug tests. Monitoring wells and piezometers located in materials with low permeabilities shall be tested using bail or slug tests. These tests involve rapidly removing or adding a known volume of water to a well and then recording water levels in the well as the well recovers to its original level. Typically, the necessary frequency of measurements will be similar to that required of pumping tests. In materials of very low permeability, less frequent measurements are necessary. In materials of higher permeability, more frequent measurements may be necessary.