



NORAD supported project in MRRD covering  
Capacity Building and Institutional Cooperation in the  
field of Hydrogeology for Faryab Province  
Afghanistan

# Hydrogeology Course 1.5

## Introduction to Well Hydraulics

By Andreas de Jong  
October 2013



*"When the well's dry,  
we know the worth of water."*  
Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

# PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to:

1. Key issues to consider when designing a pumping test.
2. Practical considerations for carrying out a pumping test.
3. The theory of groundwater flow to a pumping well.
4. The main techniques of pumping test interpretation, illustrated by practical examples.
5. The key issues that should be discussed in the report.

# KEY REFERENCES

Kruseman & de Ridder, (1994), Analysis and Evaluation of Pumping Test Data; ILRI publication 47

Glenn M. Duffield, Aquifer Testing Reference List:  
<http://www.aqtesolv.com/aquifer-tests/aquifer-testing-references.htm>

# Tentative Course Schedule

| Day | Date                  | Activity  |
|-----|-----------------------|---|
| 1   | Monday<br>07/10/13    | Opening & Introduction<br>Lecture: Introduction to Well Hydraulics<br>Practical: Well Performance Tests |
| 2   | Tuesday<br>08/10/13   | Practical: Confined Aquifers<br>Practical: Leaky - Confined Aquifers                                    |
| 3   | Wednesday<br>09/10/13 | Practical: Unconfined Aquifers<br>Practical: Recovery Tests   |
| 4   | Saturday<br>12/10/13  | Practical: Pressure Transducer Data<br>Practical: Advanced Pumping Test Programs                        |
| 5   | Sunday<br>13/10/13    | Practical: Afghan examples and/or<br>pumping test in MRRD compound                                      |
| 6   | Monday<br>14/10/13    | Practical: Afghan examples and/or<br>pumping test in MRRD compound                                      |
| 7   | Tuesday<br>15/10/13   | Final Course Workshop &<br>Presentation of Certificates   |

Eid ?

# TOPICS TO BE COVERED

1. Terminology
2. Purpose of pumping tests
3. How to plan and set up a pumping test
4. Analysis of pumping test data
5. Reporting

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# PART 1 –Terminology

1. Pumping test terminology
2. Aquifer terminology & properties



# Pumping Test Terminology (I)

**Well Yield** is the quantity of water which can be pumped from a well over a period of time. It is measured in L/sec,  $\text{m}^3/\text{h}$ ,  $\text{m}^3/\text{d}$ .

**Specific Capacity** is a measure to compare wells with different yields. It is the ration of pumping rate/drawdown (e.g.  $\text{m}^3/\text{d} / \text{m}$ )

# Pumping Test Terminology (II)

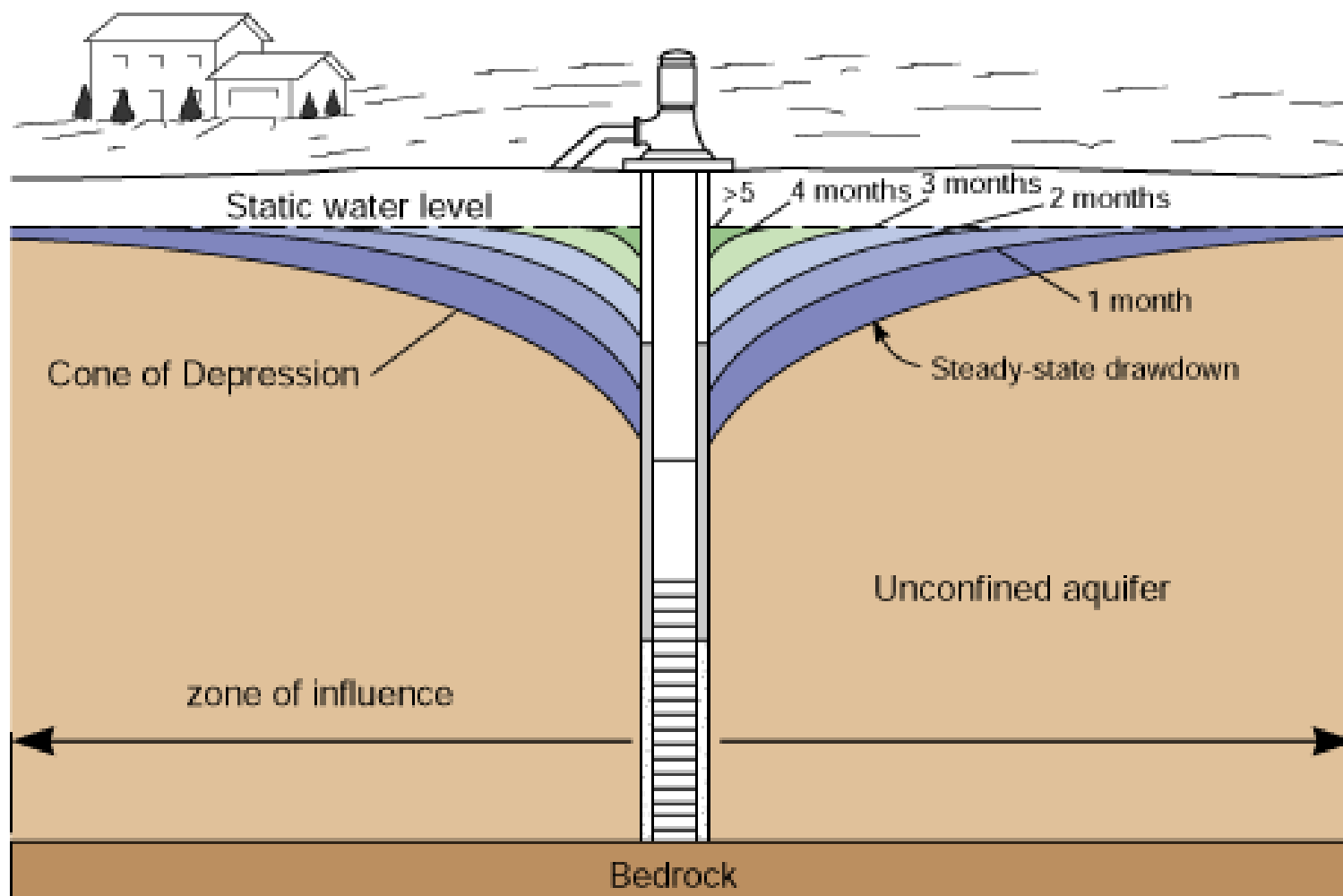
**Static water level** is the water level in a well when there is no pumping, and the water level has stabilized.

**Dynamic or pumping water level** is the water level in the well when it is being pumped.

**Drawdown** is the difference between the pumping water level and the static water level.

# Drawdown

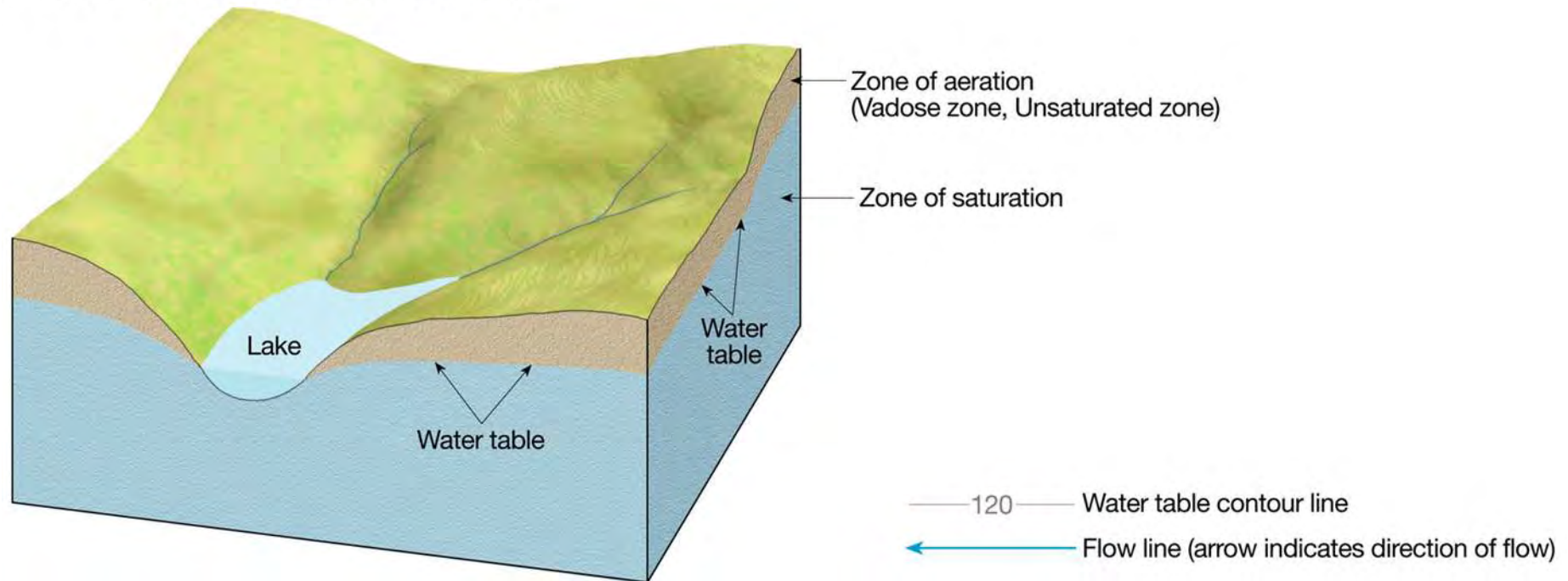
## WATER-TABLE DRAWDOWN AND RECOVERY AFTER PUMPING



# Cone of Depression

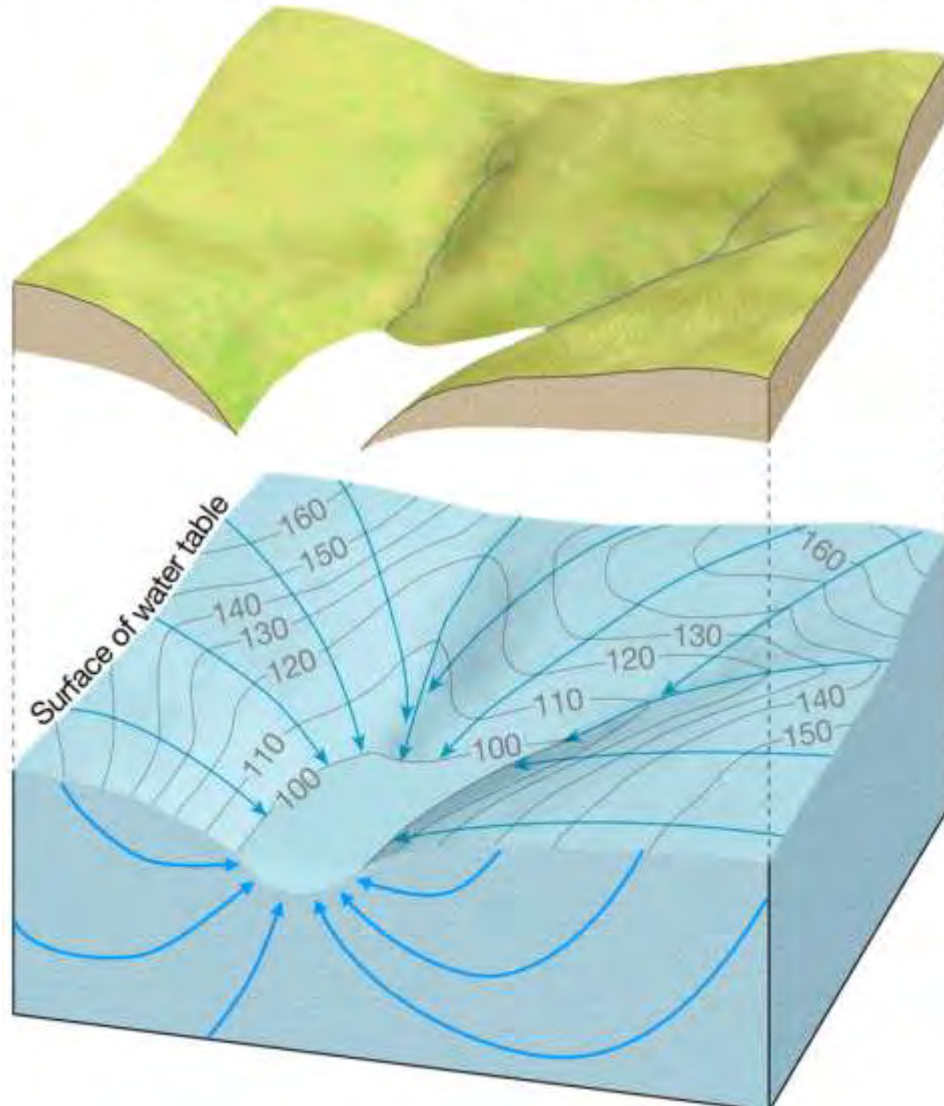
## Water Table Contours and Flow Lines

### A. Groundwater Zones and the Water Table



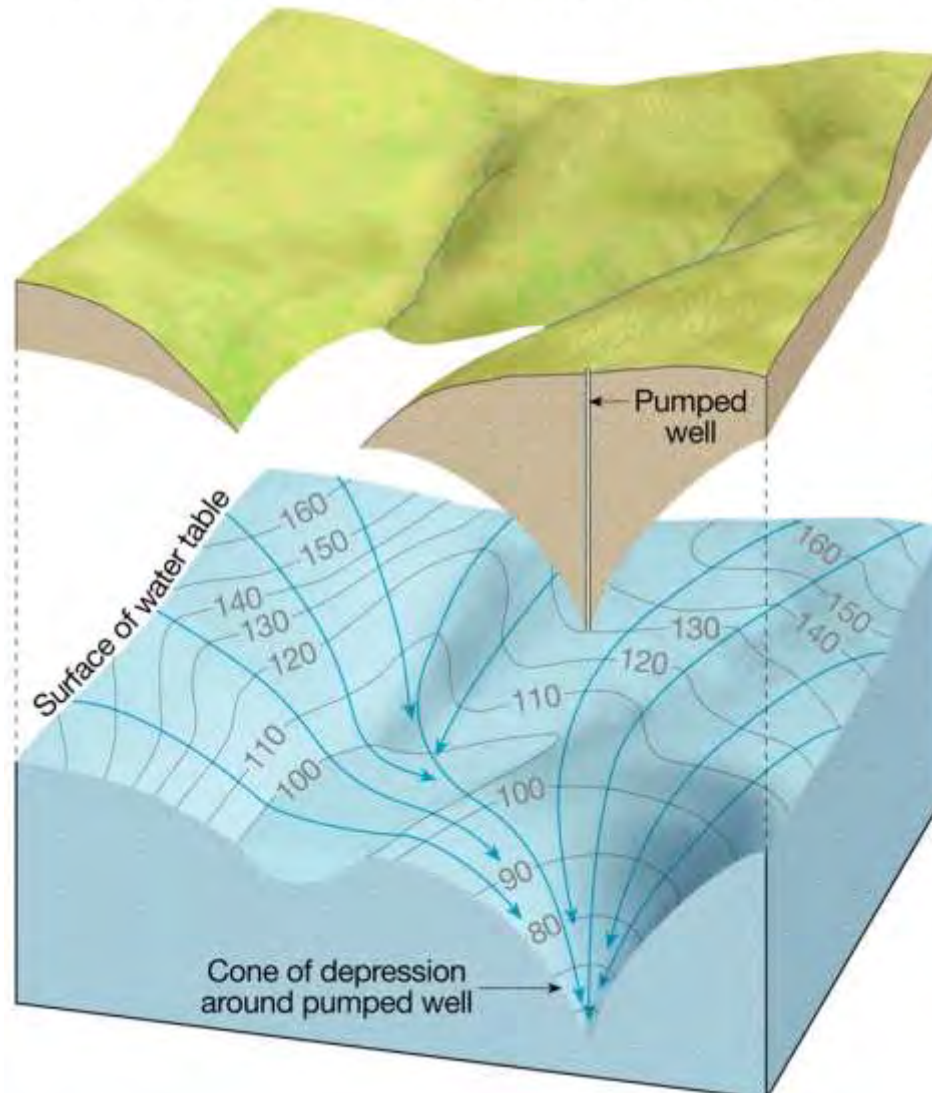
# Cone of Depression

**B. Normal Water Table Contours and Flow Lines:**  
Note that flow direction is downhill to streams and the lake



# Cone of Depression

C. Water Table Contours and Flow Lines Changed by a Cone of Depression Developed Around a Pumped Well



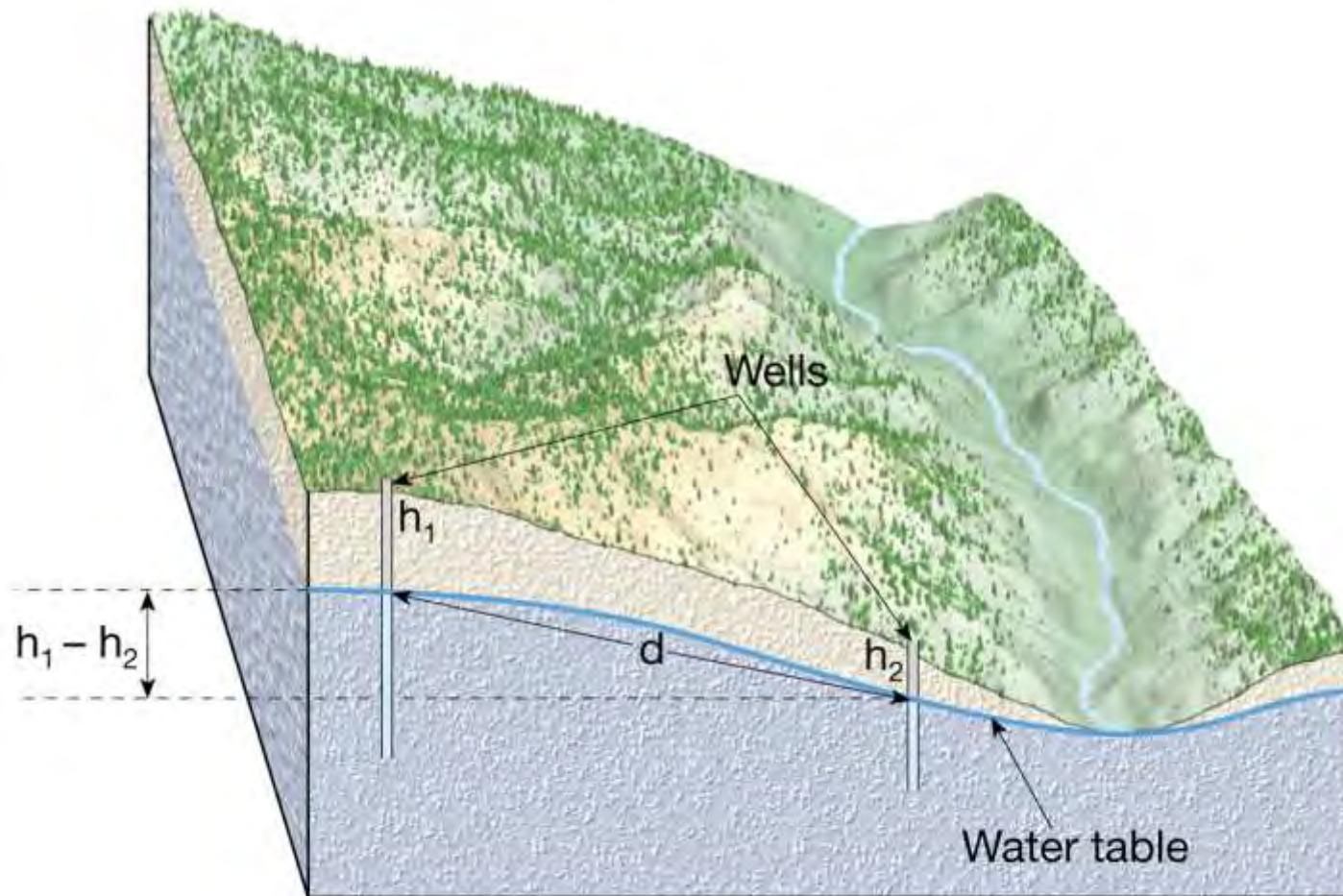
# Steady & unsteady-state flow

**Steady-state flow** means no change in groundwater levels over time. i.e the discharge is balanced by recharge, and the system has reached equilibrium.

**Unsteady-state flow** occurs from when the pump is switched on until steady-state is reached.



# Hydraulic Gradient



$$\text{Hydraulic gradient} = \frac{h_1 - h_2}{d}$$

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# Definitions: Aquifer

An **aquifer** is a saturated permeable unit which can yield economic quantities of water to wells.  
e.g. gravels, sands, fractured granites.

# Definitions: Aquitard

An **aquitard** is a geological unit that is permeable enough to transmit water in significant quantities over large areas and time, but its permeability is not sufficient to justify production wells.

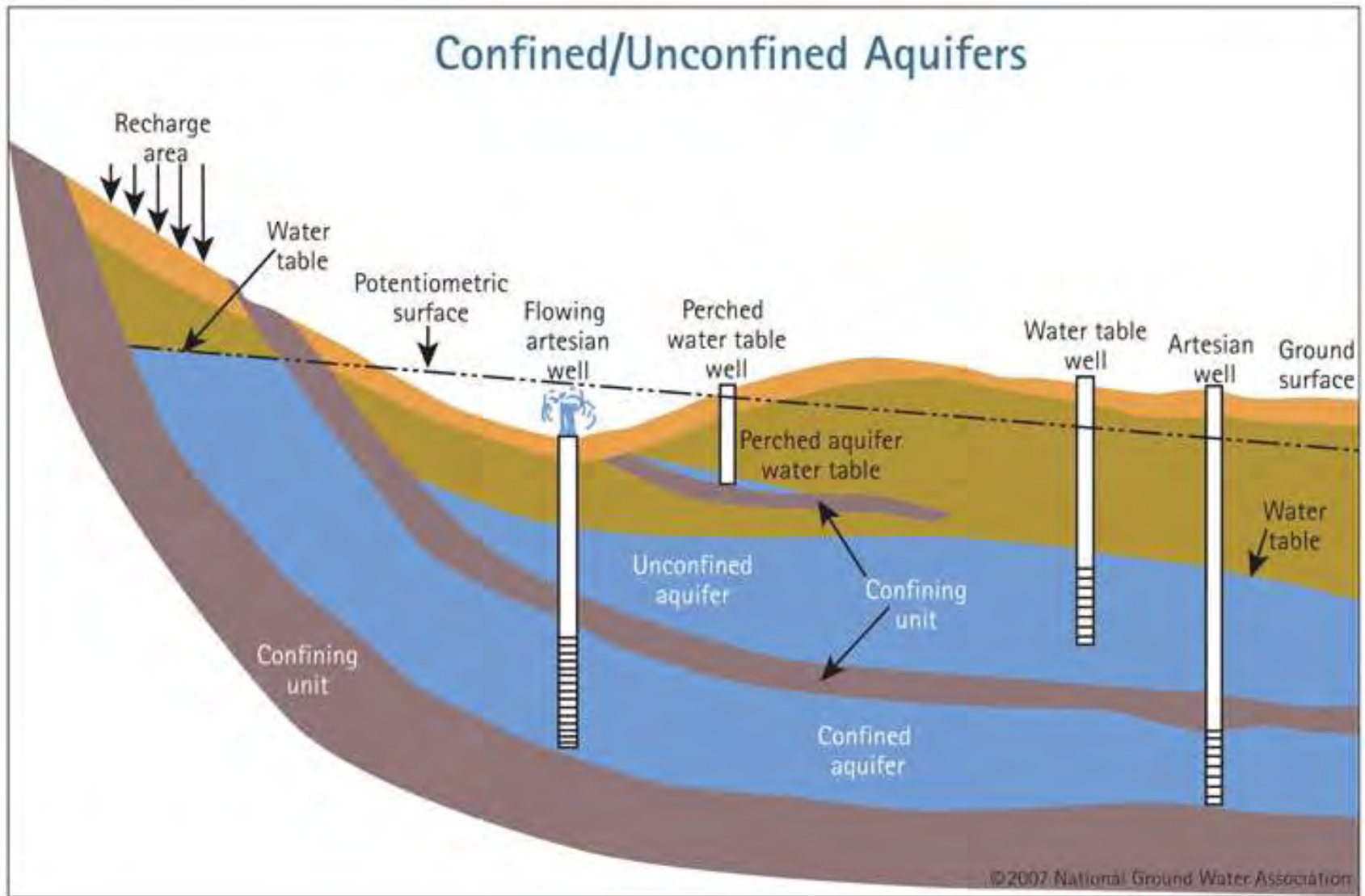
e.g. clays, loams and shales.

# Definitions: Aquiclude

An **aquiclude** is an “impermeable” geological unit that does not transmit water at all.

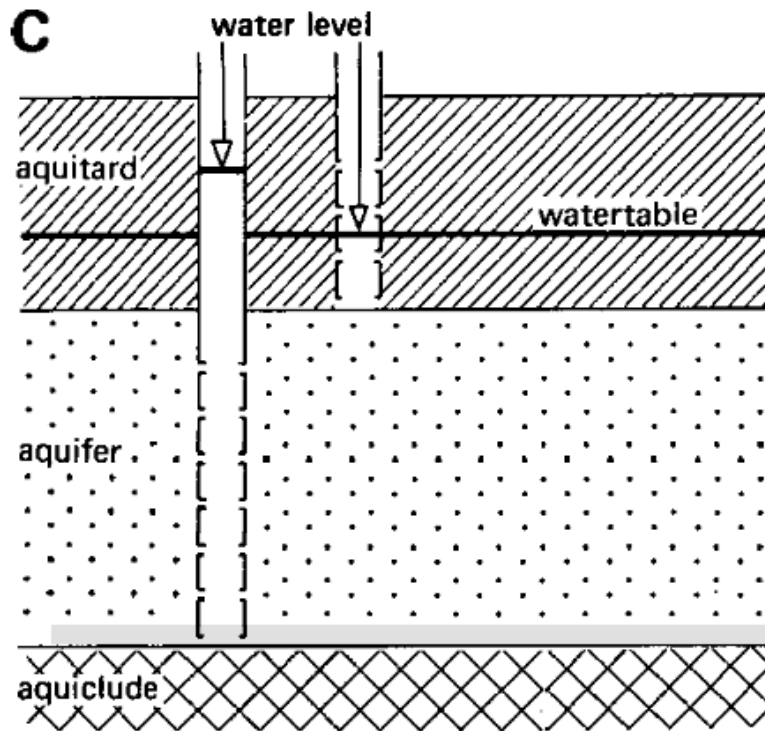
e.g. dense, unfractured igneous and metamorphic rocks.

# Aquifer types

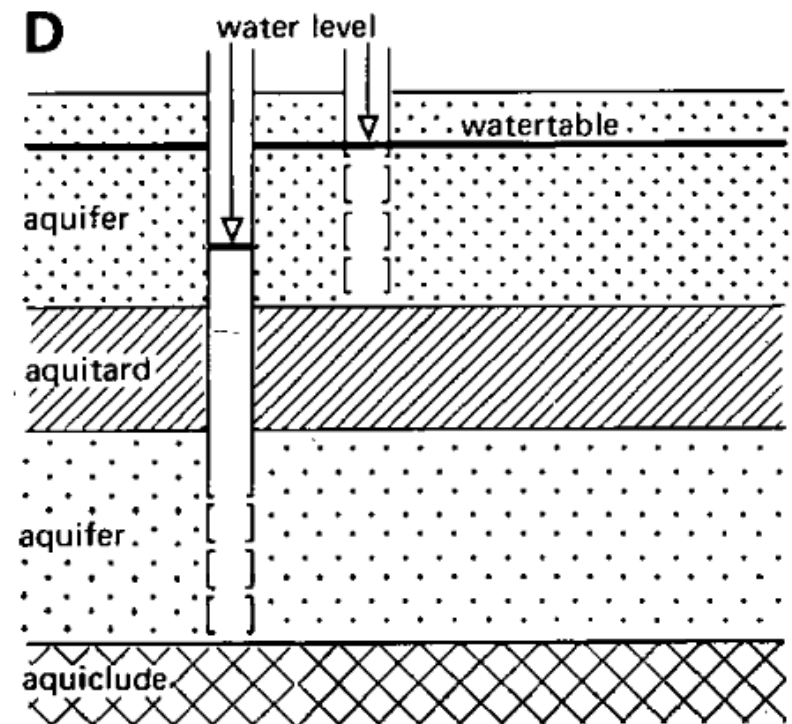


# Aquifer types: leaky aquifers

LEAKY AQUIFER



LEAKY AQUIFER

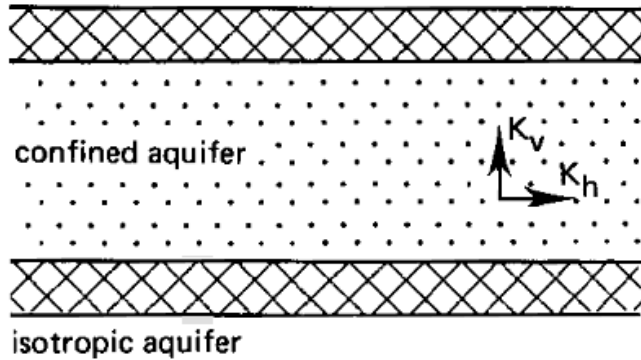


Source: Kruseman & de Ridder, (1994), Analysis and Evaluation of Pumping Test Data; ILRI publication 47

# Anisotropy & heterogeneity

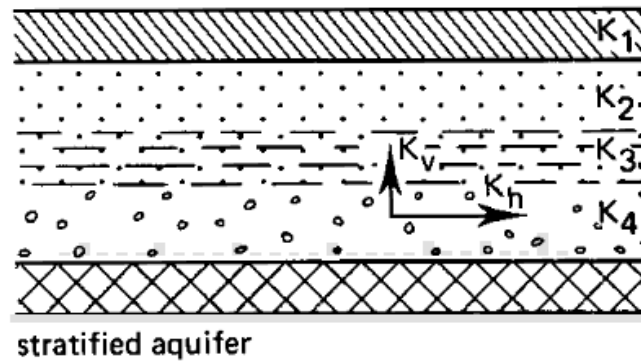
HOMOGENEOUS AQUIFER

**A**

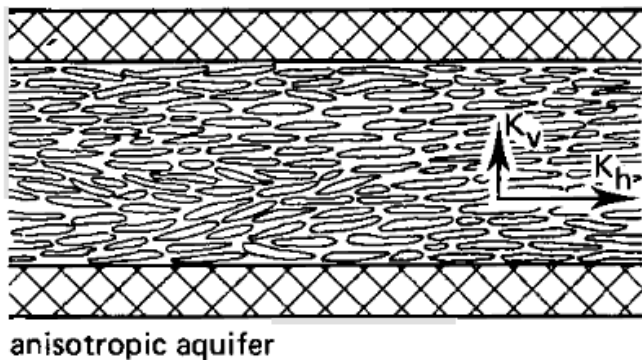


HETEROGENEOUS AQUIFER

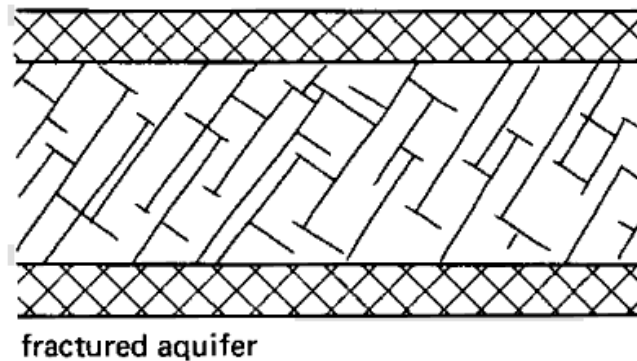
**C**



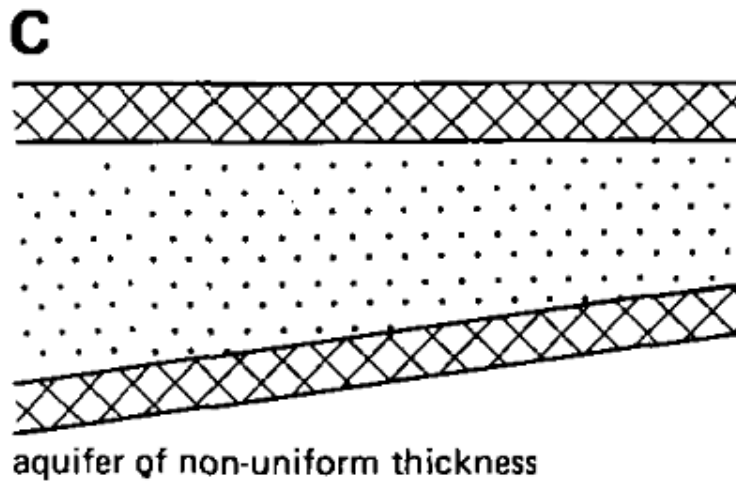
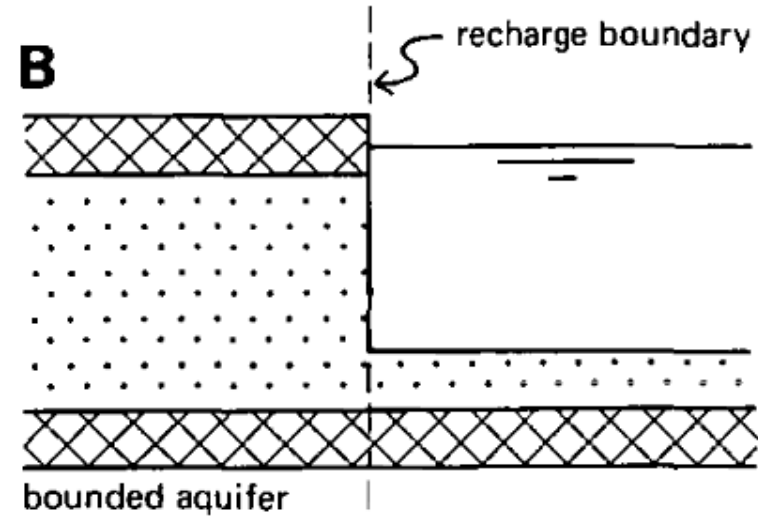
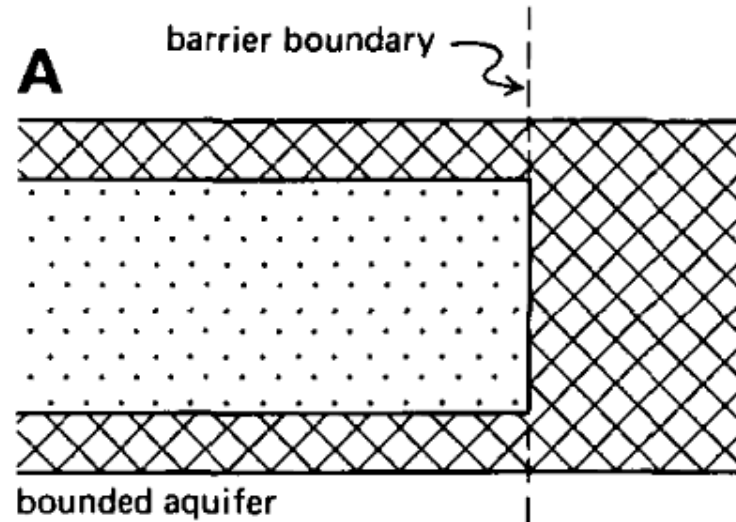
**B**



**D**



# Bounded aquifers

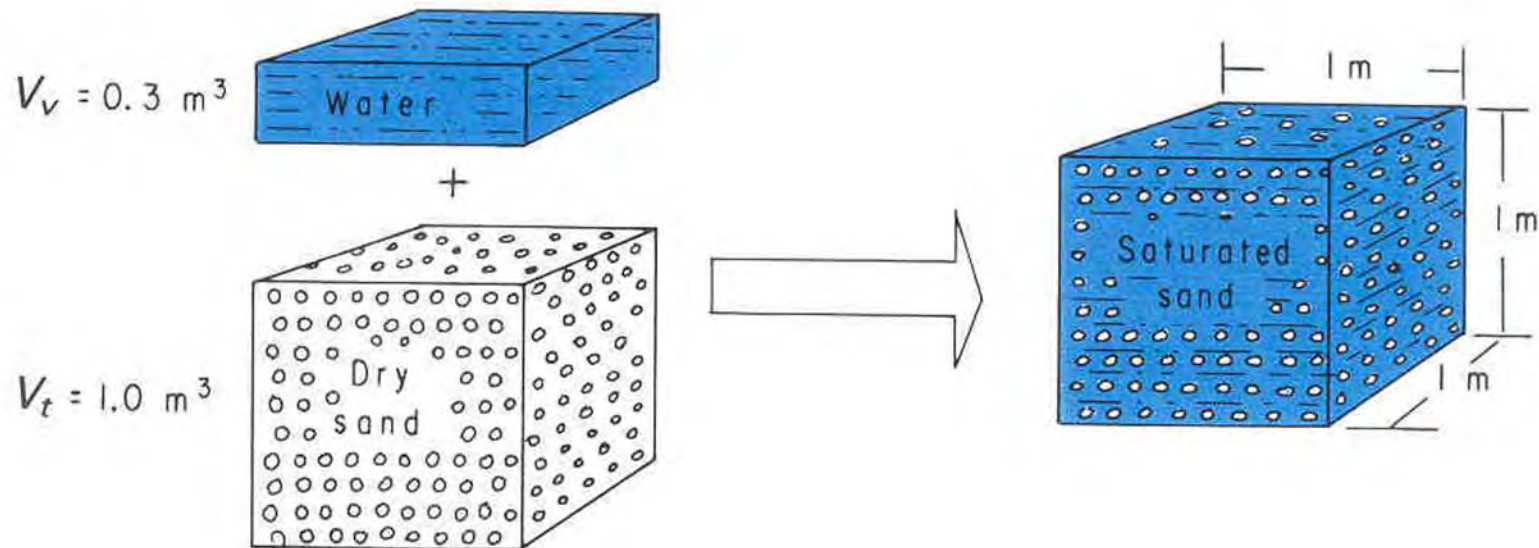


# Physical Properties

1. Porosity ( $n$ )
2. Hydraulic conductivity ( $K$ )
3. Transmissivity ( $KD$  or  $T$ )
4. Compressibility ( $\alpha$  &  $\beta$ )
5. Specific storage ( $S_s$ )
6. Storativity ( $S$ )
7. Specific yield ( $S_y$ ) & specific retention ( $S_r$ )
8. Diffusivity ( $KD/S$ )
9. Hydraulic resistance ( $c$ )



# Porosity



$$\text{Porosity } (n) = \frac{\text{Volume of voids } (V_v)}{\text{Total volume } (V_t)} = \frac{0.3 \text{ m}^3}{1.0 \text{ m}^3} = 0.30$$

# Porosity

Table 1.1 Range of porosity values (n) in percentages

| Rocks                       |        | Unconsolidated materials |         |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------------------------|---------|
| Sandstone                   | 5 – 30 | Gravel                   | 25 – 40 |
| Limestone                   | 0 – 20 | Sand                     | 25 – 50 |
| Karstic limestone           | 5 – 50 | Silt                     | 35 – 50 |
| Shale                       | 0 – 10 | Clay                     | 40 – 70 |
| Basalt, fractured           | 5 – 50 |                          |         |
| Crystalline rock            | 0 – 5  |                          |         |
| Crystalline rock, fractured | 0 – 10 |                          |         |

Source: Kruseman & de Ridder, (1994), Analysis and Evaluation of Pumping Test Data; ILRI publication 47

# Hydraulic conductivity (K)

The **Hydraulic conductivity** is the volume of water that will move through a porous medium in unit time under a unit hydraulic gradient through a unit area measured at right angles to the direction of flow.

# Hydraulic conductivity (K)

Table 1.2 Order of magnitude of K for different kinds of rock (from Bouwer 1978)

| Geological classification                     | K<br>(m/d)      |                  |
|---|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>Unconsolidated materials:</b>              |                 |                  |
| Clay  | $10^{-8}$       | $-10^{-2}$       |
| Fine sand                                     | 1               | $-5$             |
| Medium sand                                   | 5               | $-2 \times 10^1$ |
| Coarse sand                                   | $2 \times 10^1$ | $-10^2$          |
| Gravel  | $10^2$          | $-10^3$          |
| Sand and gravel mixes                         | 5               | $-10^2$          |
| Clay, sand, gravel mixes (e.g. till)          | $10^{-3}$       | $-10^{-1}$       |
| <b>Rocks:</b>                                 |                 |                  |
| Sandstone                                     | $10^{-3}$       | $-1$             |
| Carbonate rock with secondary porosity        | $10^{-2}$       | $-1$             |
| Shale   | $10^{-7}$       |                  |
| Dense solid rock                              | $< 10^{-5}$     |                  |
| Fractured or weathered rock<br>(Core samples) | Almost 0        | $-3 \times 10^2$ |
| Volcanic rock                                 | Almost 0        | $-10^3$          |

# Transmissivity (KD or T)

**Transmissivity** is the rate of flow under a unit hydraulic gradient through a cross section of unit width over the whole saturated thickness of the aquifer.

# Compressibility ( $\alpha$ & $\beta$ )

The **compressibility** is the change in volume, or the strain, induced in aquifer or aquitards under a given stress.

$$\alpha = \frac{-dV_T/V_T}{d\sigma_e}$$

Clay =  $10^{-6}$  to  $10^{-8}$

Sand =  $10^{-7}$  to  $10^{-9}$

Gravel &

fractured rocks =  $10^{-8}$  to  $10^{-10}$  m<sup>2</sup>/N

$$\beta = \frac{-dV_w/V_w}{dp}$$

Water =  $4.4 \times 10^{-10}$  m<sup>2</sup>/N

# Specific storage ( $S_s$ )

The **specific storage** of a saturated confined aquifer is the volume of water that a unit volume of aquifer releases from storage under a unit decline in hydraulic head.

This is due to the compaction of the aquifer due to increasing effective stress and the expansion of the water due to decreasing pressure.

# Storativity (S)

The **storativity** of a saturated confined aquifer is the volume of water released from storage per unit surface area per unit decline in piezometric surface.

$$S = S_s D$$

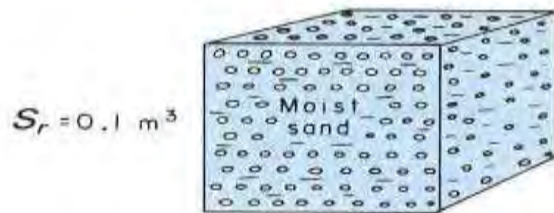
S is dimensionless and ranges in confined aquifers from  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  to  $5 \times 10^{-3}$



# Specific Yield

The **specific yield** is the volume of water that an unconfined aquifer releases from storage per unit surface area of aquifer per unit decline in the water table. The values range from 0.01 to 0.30.

# Specific Yield & Specific Retention

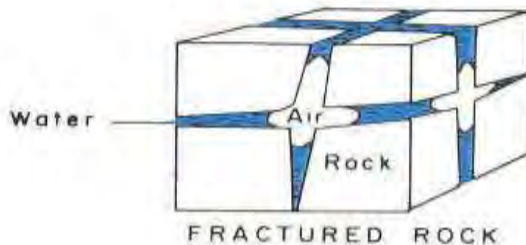


$$n = S_y + S_r = \frac{0.2 \text{ m}^3}{1 \text{ m}^3} + \frac{0.1 \text{ m}^3}{1 \text{ m}^3} = 0.30$$

(1)



Water retained as a film on rock surfaces and in capillary-size openings after gravity drainage.



(2)

$$n = S_y + S_r$$

$$S_y = V_d / V_t$$

$$S_r = V_r / V_t$$

$n$  = porosity

$S_y$  = specific yield

$S_r$  = specific retention

$V_d$  = volume of water that drains from a total volume of  $V_t$ ,

$V_r$  is the volume of water retained in a total volume of  $V_t$

$V_t$  = total volume of a soil or rock sample

# Specific Yield & Specific Retention

## SELECTED VALUES OF POROSITY, SPECIFIC YIELD, AND SPECIFIC RETENTION

[Values in percent by volume]

| Material                     | Porosity | Specific yield | Specific retention |
|------------------------------|----------|----------------|--------------------|
| Soil -----                   | 55       | 40             | 15                 |
| Clay -----                   | 50       | 2              | 48                 |
| Sand -----                   | 25       | 22             | 3                  |
| Gravel -----                 | 20       | 19             | 1                  |
| Limestone -----              | 20       | 18             | 2                  |
| Sandstone (semiconsolidated) | 11       | 6              | 5                  |
| Granite -----                | .1       | .09            | .01                |
| Basalt (young) -----         | 11       | 8              | 3                  |

# Diffusivity (T/S)

The **hydraulic diffusivity** is the ratio of the transmissivity and storativity of a saturated aquifer. It governs the propagation in changes in hydraulic head in the aquifer.

Dimension =  $\text{Length}^2/\text{Time}$

# Hydraulic resistance (c)

The **hydraulic resistance** is the resistance of an aquitard to vertical flow.

$$c = \frac{D'}{K'}$$

Dimension = Time

Typical values = 100s to >10 000 days

# Leakage Factor (L)

The **leakage factor** is a measure of the spatial distribution of the leakage through an aquitard into a leaky aquifer and vice versa.

$$L = \sqrt{KDc}$$

Dimension = Length (m)

Large L = low leakage rate through the aquitard.

# Darcy's Law

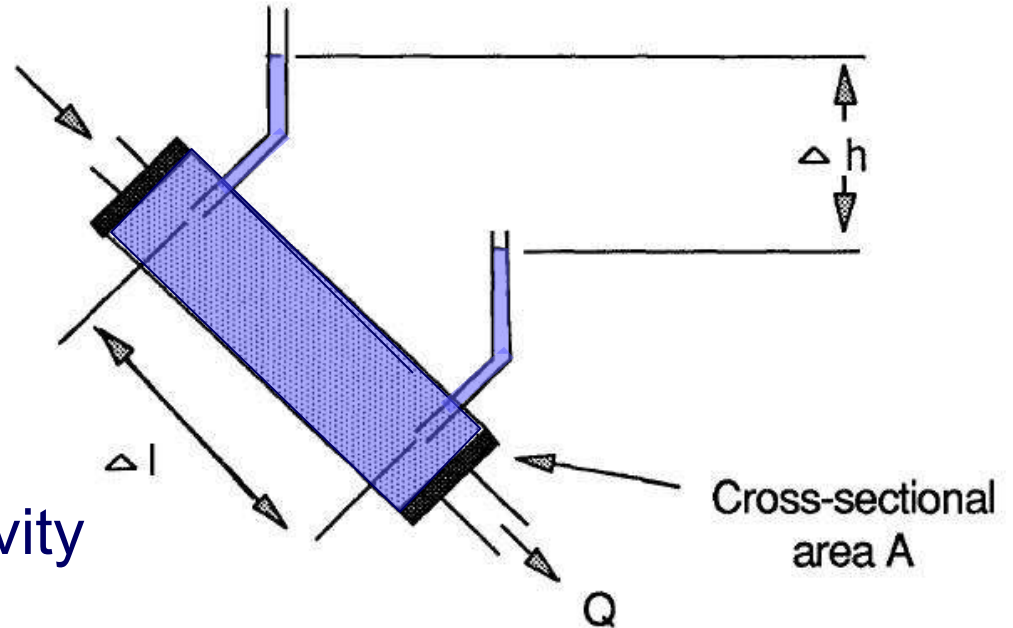
$$Q = KiA$$

$Q$  = discharge

$K$  = hydraulic conductivity

$i$  = hydraulic gradient

$A$  = area



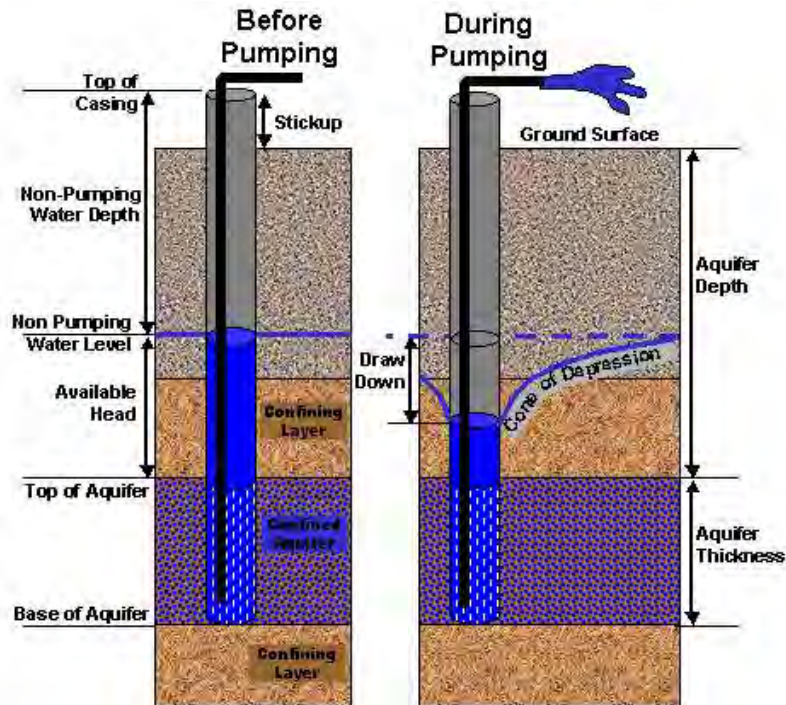
# TOPICS TO BE COVERED

1. Terminology
2. Purpose of pumping tests
3. How to plan and set up a pumping test
4. Analysis of pumping test data
5. Reporting

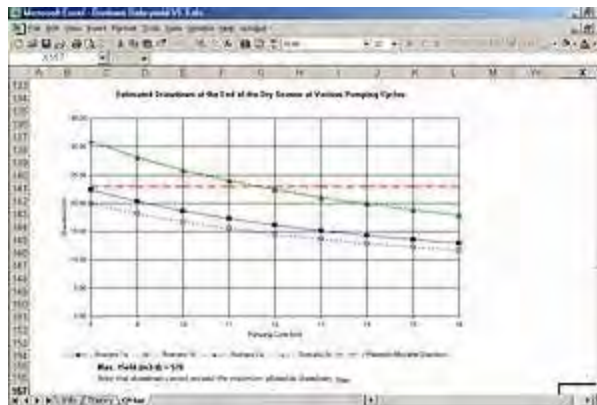


# PART 2 – Purpose of Pumping Tests

## Class Exercise: Why do we need to do pumping tests?



Source: <http://environment.alberta.ca/images/EV3-pumptest.gif>



Source: [www.geosearch.co.uk](http://www.geosearch.co.uk)

## PART 2 – Purpose of Pumping Tests (I)

1. To find reliable values of the hydraulic characteristics of the geological formations through which groundwater is moving.
2. To estimate the hydraulic efficiency of a pumping well.

## PART 2 – Purpose of Pumping Tests (II)

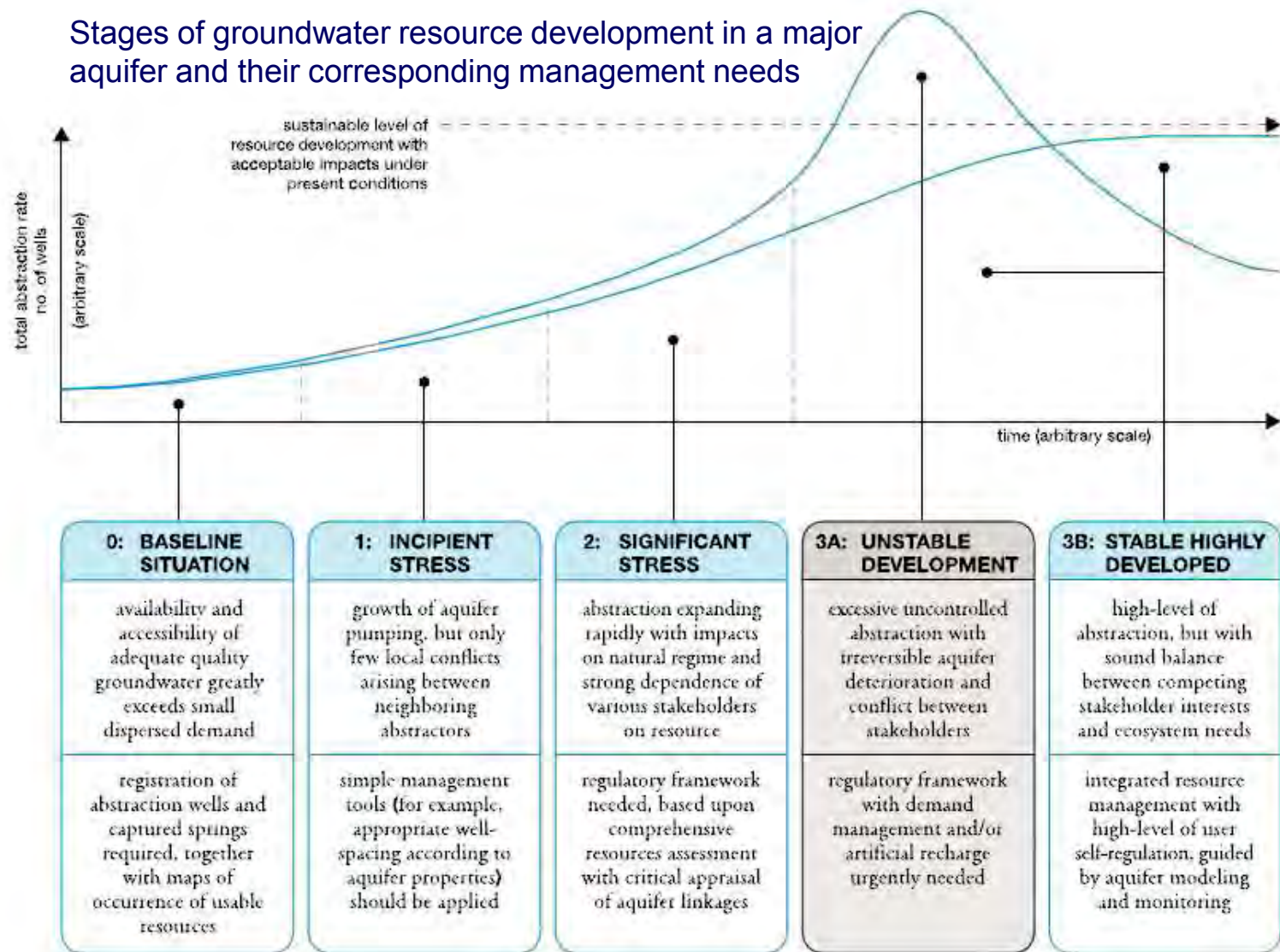
3. To determine how much groundwater can be extracted from a production well, and estimate how this will affect other wells in the same aquifer.
4. To determine the optimum pumping rate and pump setting depth for a production well.

## PART 2 – Purpose of Pumping Tests (III)

3. To obtain information on groundwater quality and its variability over time.

# Class Exercise: At what stage is Afghanistan & why are pumping tests important?

Stages of groundwater resource development in a major aquifer and their corresponding management needs



# TOPICS TO BE COVERED

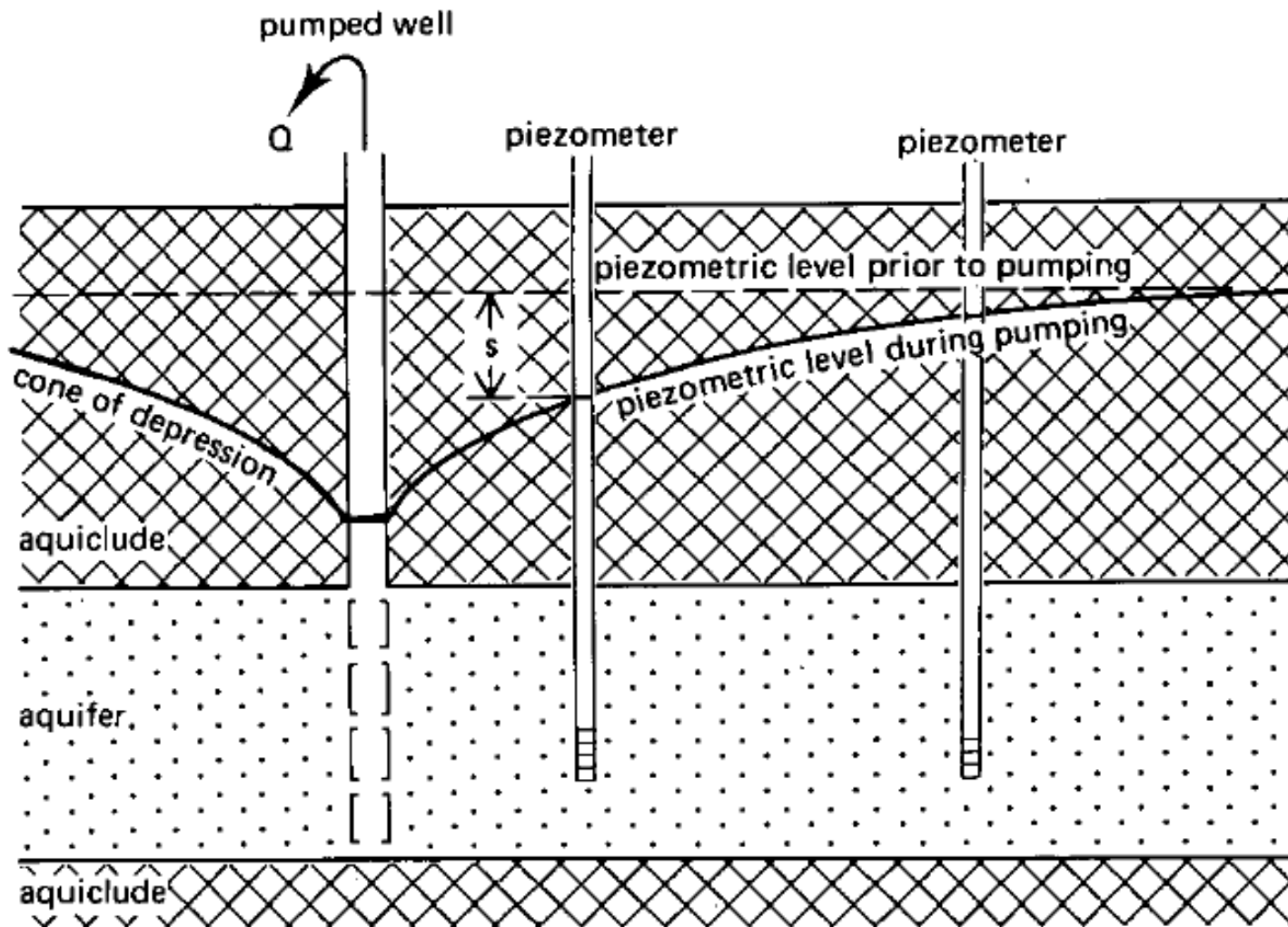
1. Terminology
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# PART 3 – How to Plan and Set up a Pumping Test

1. The principle
2. Preliminary studies
3. Well site selection
4. Well characteristics
5. Piezometers
6. Measurements
7. Duration of pumping tests



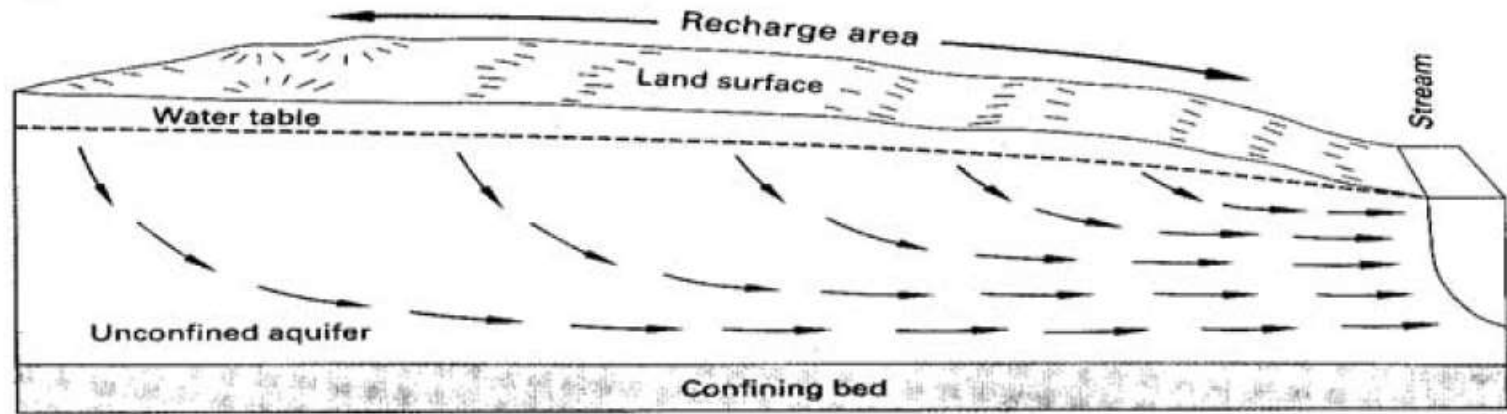
# The Principle



$s$  = drawdown of piezometric level

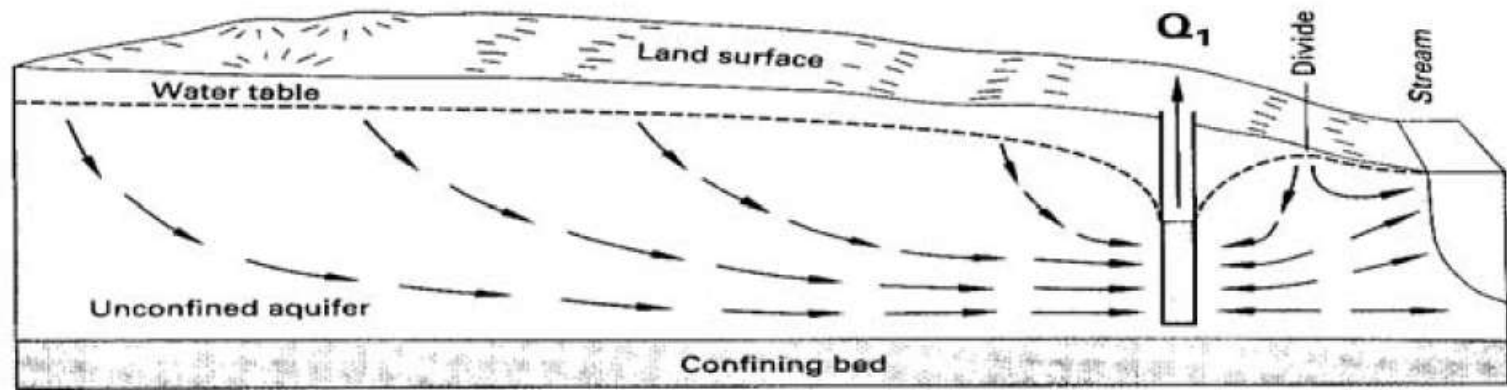


# The Principle



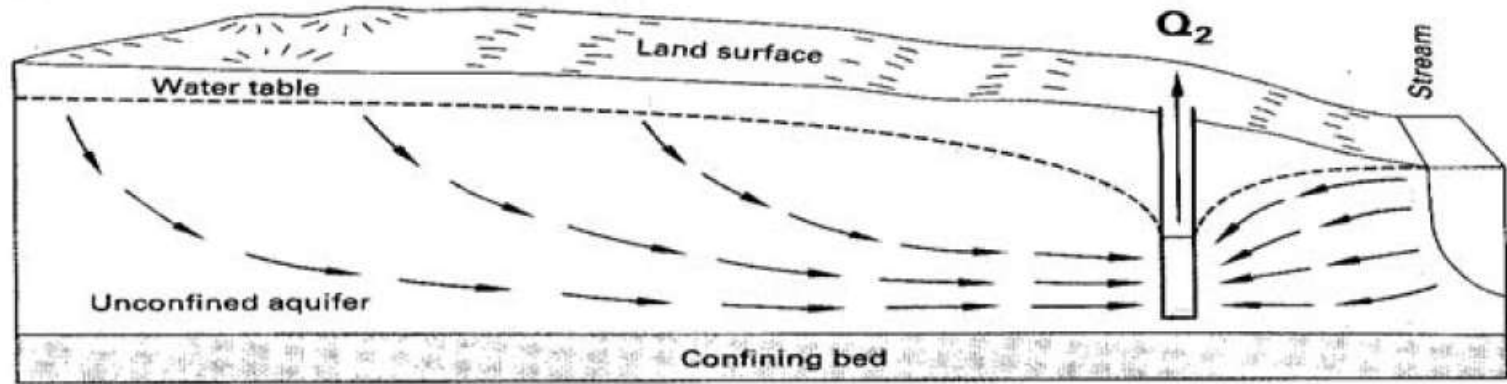
(a)

# The Principle



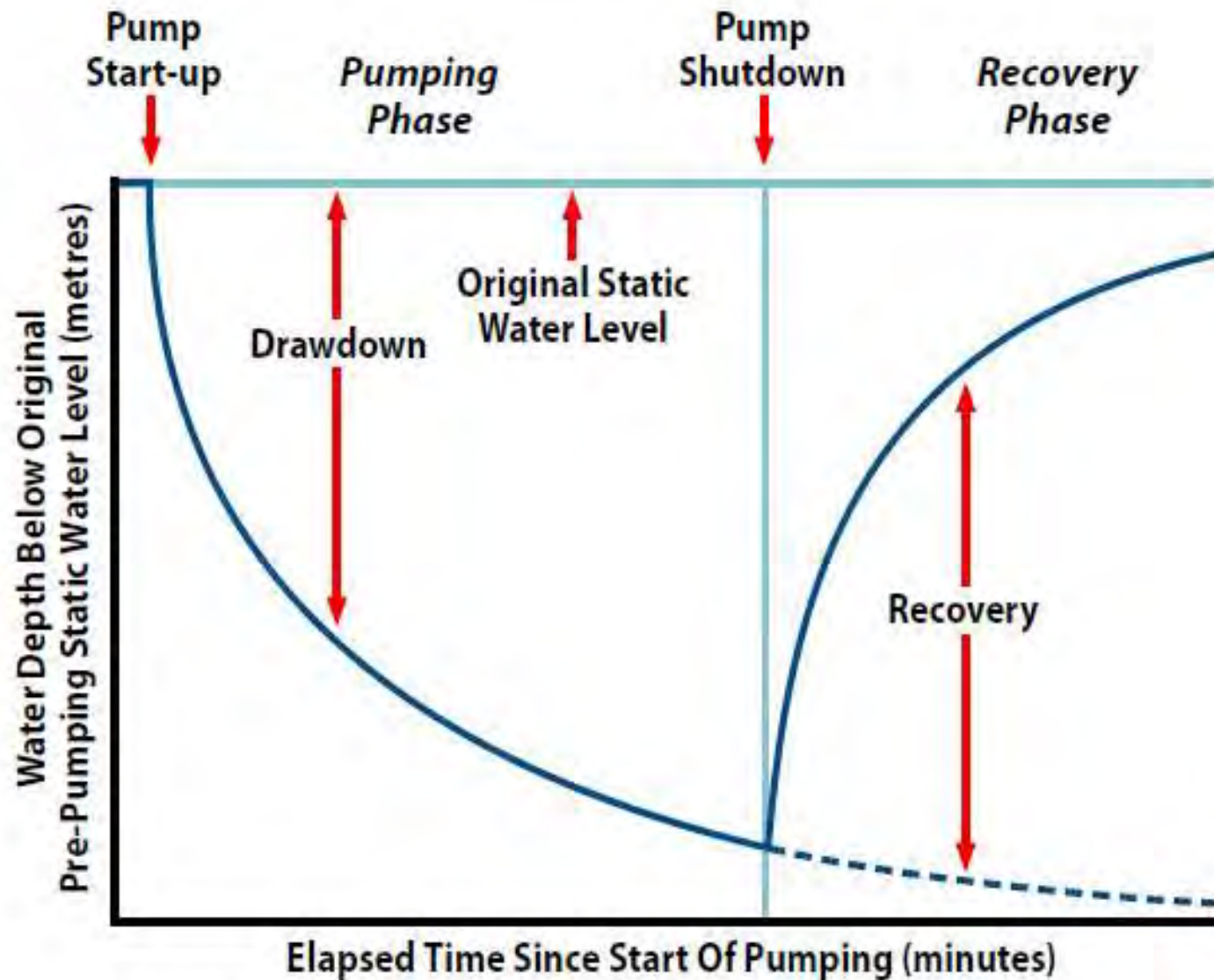
(b)

# The Principle

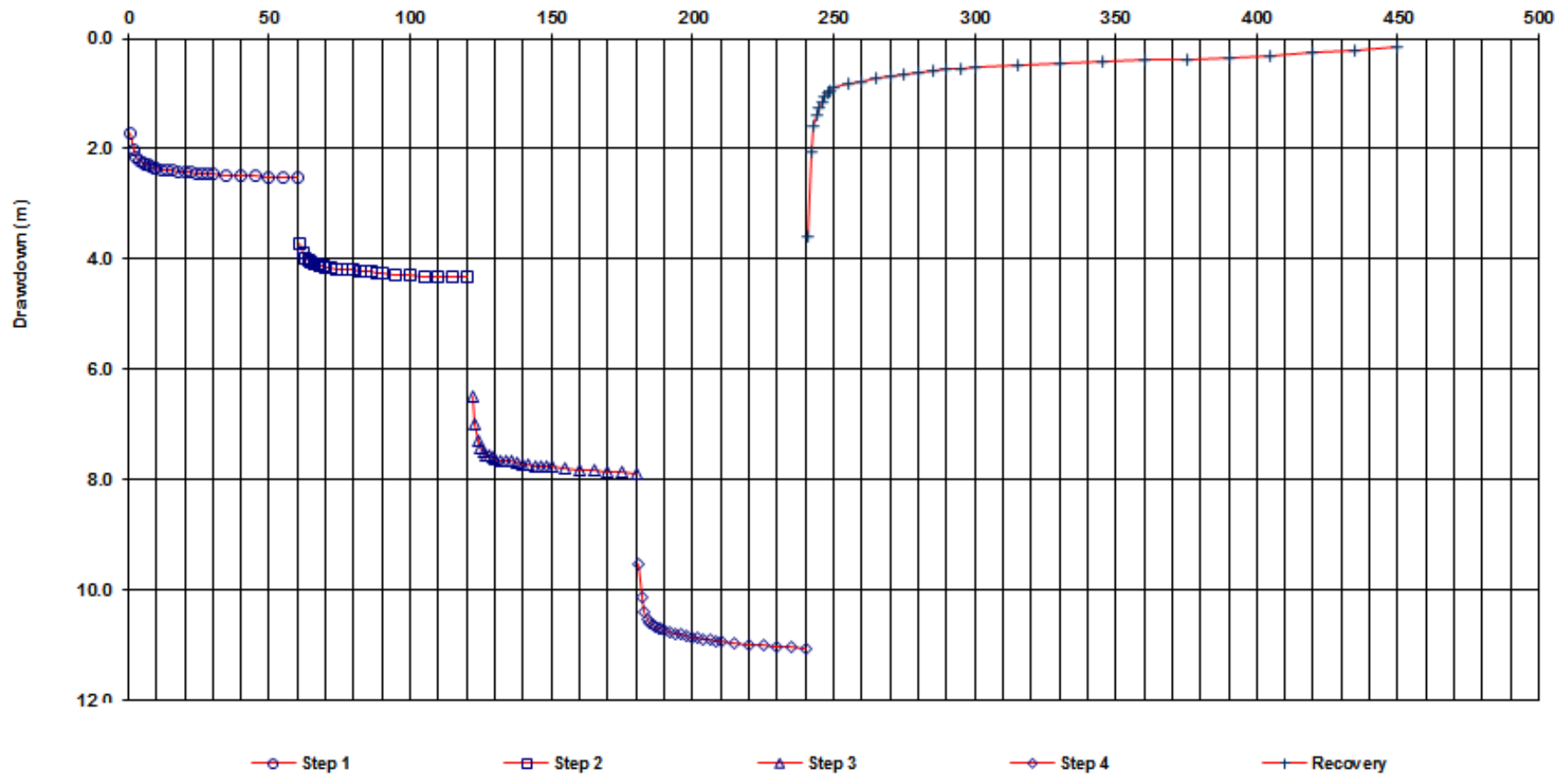


(c)

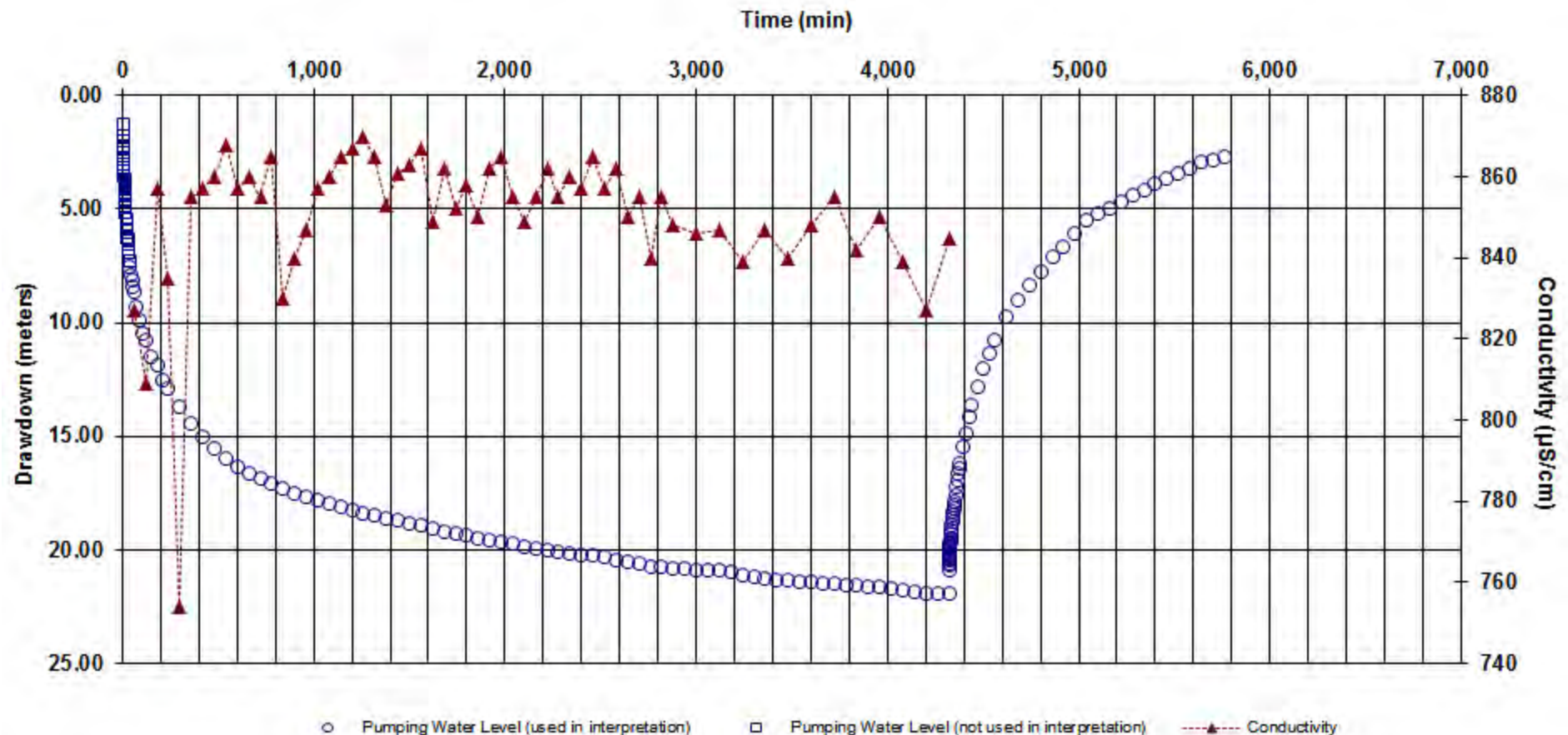
# Constant Rate & Recovery Pumping Tests



# Variable-rate Pumping Test: Step Test, Ghana

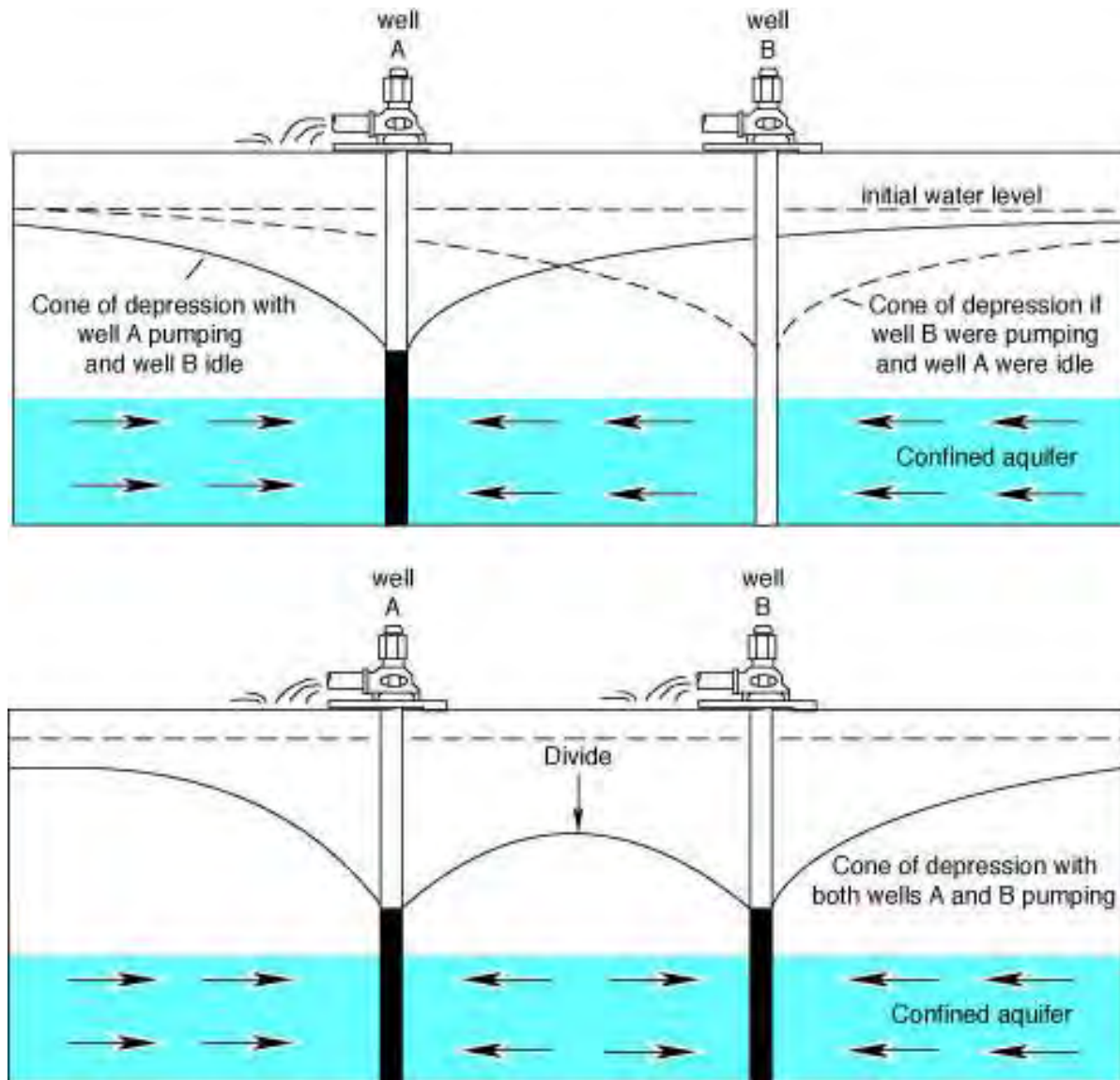


# Constant Rate & Recovery Pumping Test, Ghana





# The Principle



# Preliminary studies – literature review

1. Geology of the area.
2. Type of aquifers and confining beds.
3. Thickness and extent of aquifers and confining beds.
4. Barrier and recharge boundaries.
5. Groundwater data – hydraulic gradients.
6. Data on existing wells in the area.



# Preliminary studies – site visit

1. Visit existing wells in the area – GPS position, interviews with well owners, water samples etc.
2. Verify information from literature review and update as appropriate.

# Well Site Selection - I

1. The site should be representative of the hydrogeological conditions of the area.
2. In confined aquifers, it should be far away from roads and railways.
3. The site should be as far away from other pumping wells as possible.

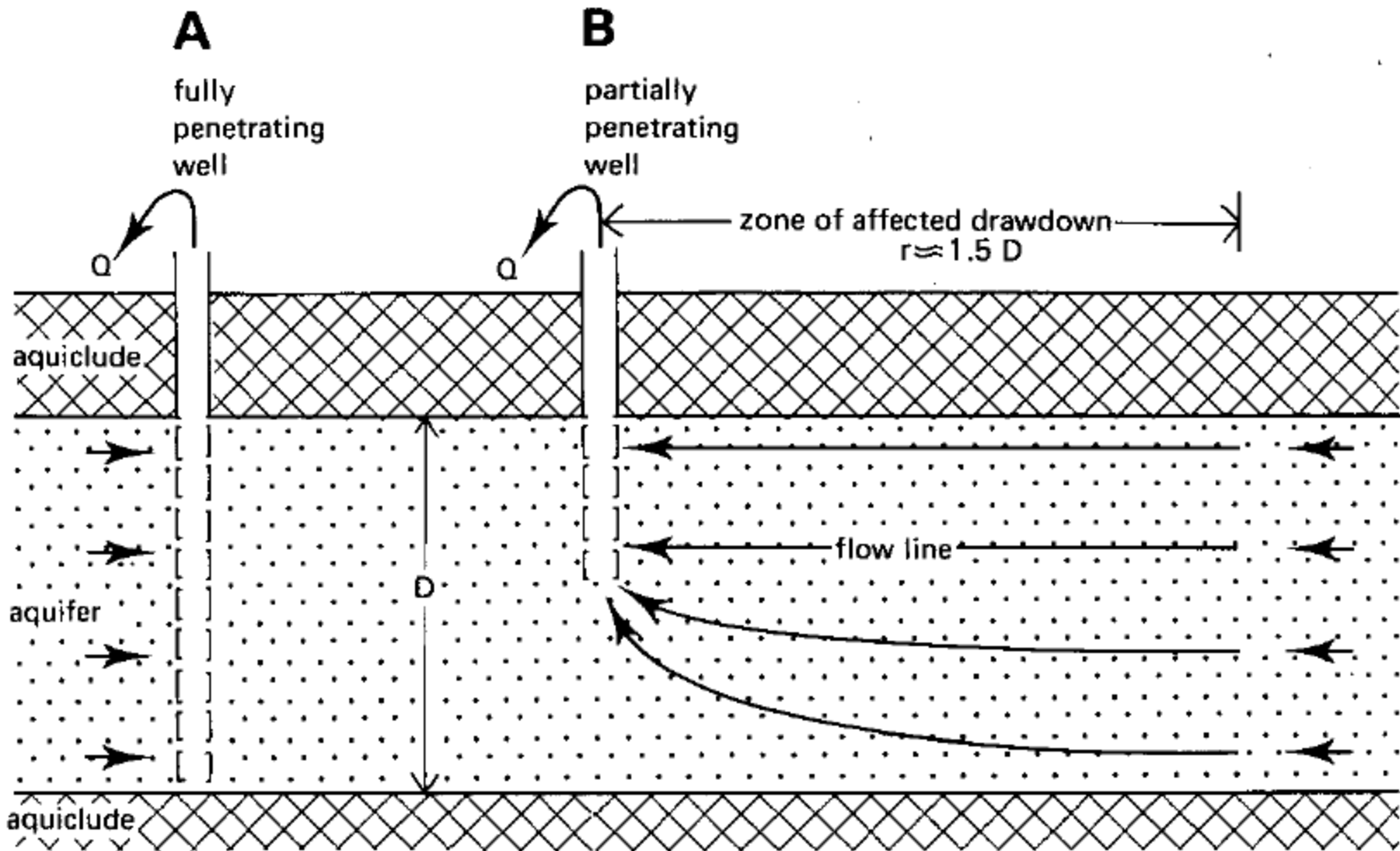
## Well Site Selection - II

4. There should be a way to discharge the pumped water to prevent it from recirculating back to the aquifer.
5. The gradient of the water table or piezometric surface should be low.
6. Equipment should be able to reach the site.

# Well Characteristics

1. The well diameter needs to be just big enough to accommodate the suction pipe or submersible pump. *Doubling the well diameter will only increase yields by 10%.*
2. The well depth should ideally be to the bottom of the aquifer.
3. In confined aquifers the well should be screened over 80% of the aquifer.

# Well Characteristics

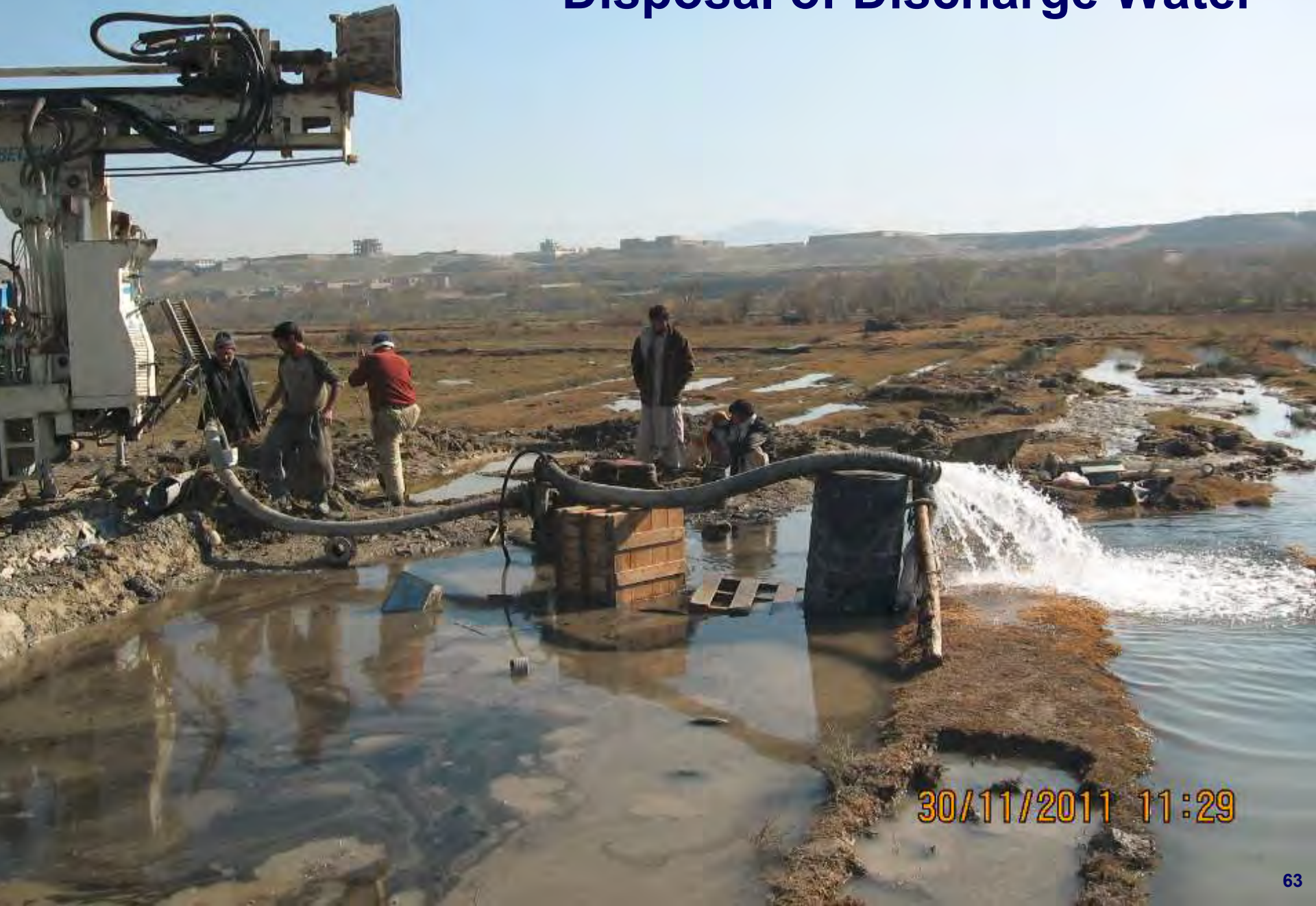


Source: Kruseman & de Ridder, (1994), Analysis and Evaluation of Pumping Test Data; ILRI publication 47

# Pump Characteristics

1. The pump & power unit should be able to operate without breakdowns for at least a few days.
2. The discharge should be sufficient to produce drawdowns 100 – 200m from the well.
3. The discharge should be piped, say, 200m from the well & discharged into a canal or natural channel.

# Disposal of Discharge Water



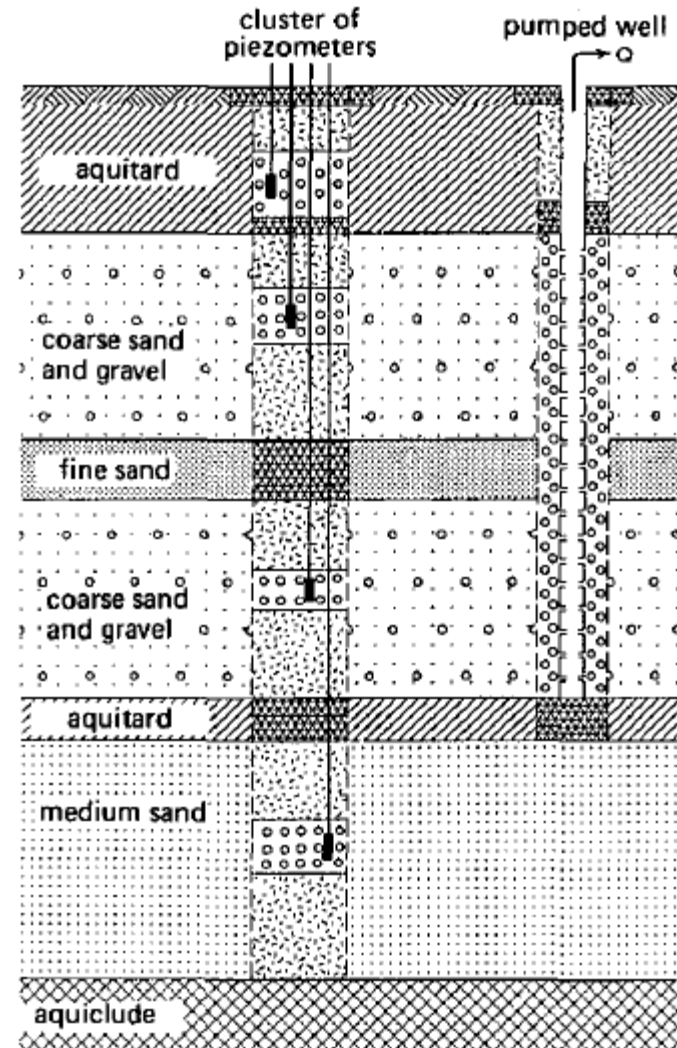
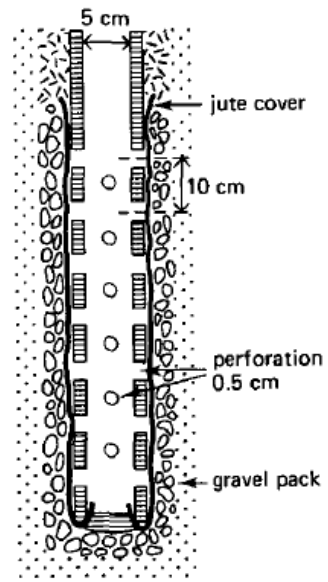
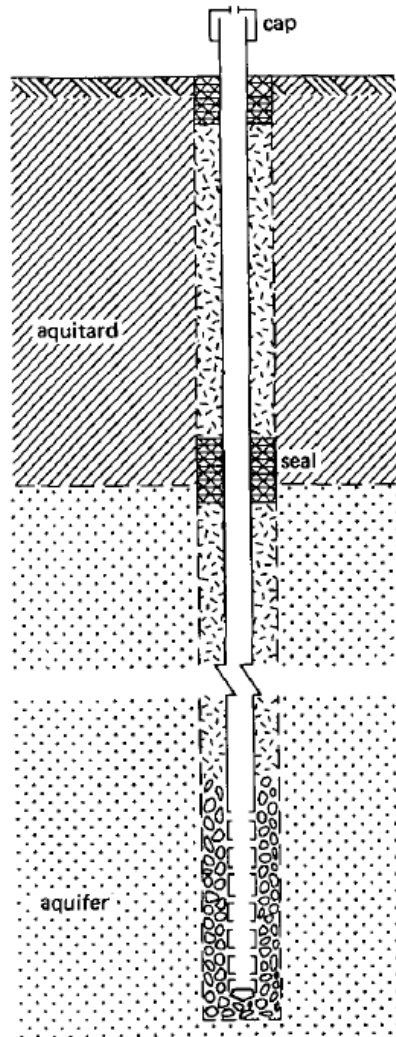
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# Piezometers

1. Ideally the piezometers should be small diameter, with a 0.5 to 1m screened section at their base.
2. It is recommended to have at least 3 piezometers.
3. The piezometer distance from the pumping well needs to be estimated based on aquifer characteristics, duration and rate of the pumping test.



# Piezometers - design



# Piezometers – distance from pumping well

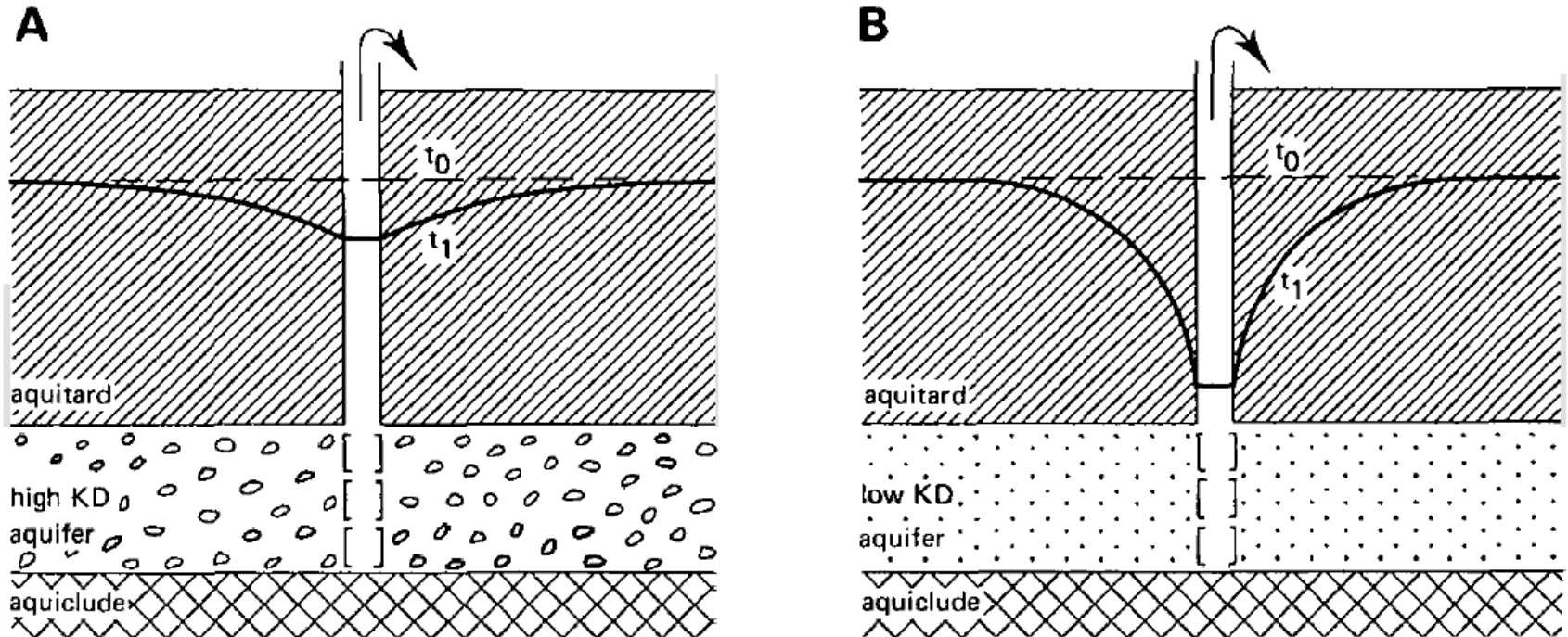
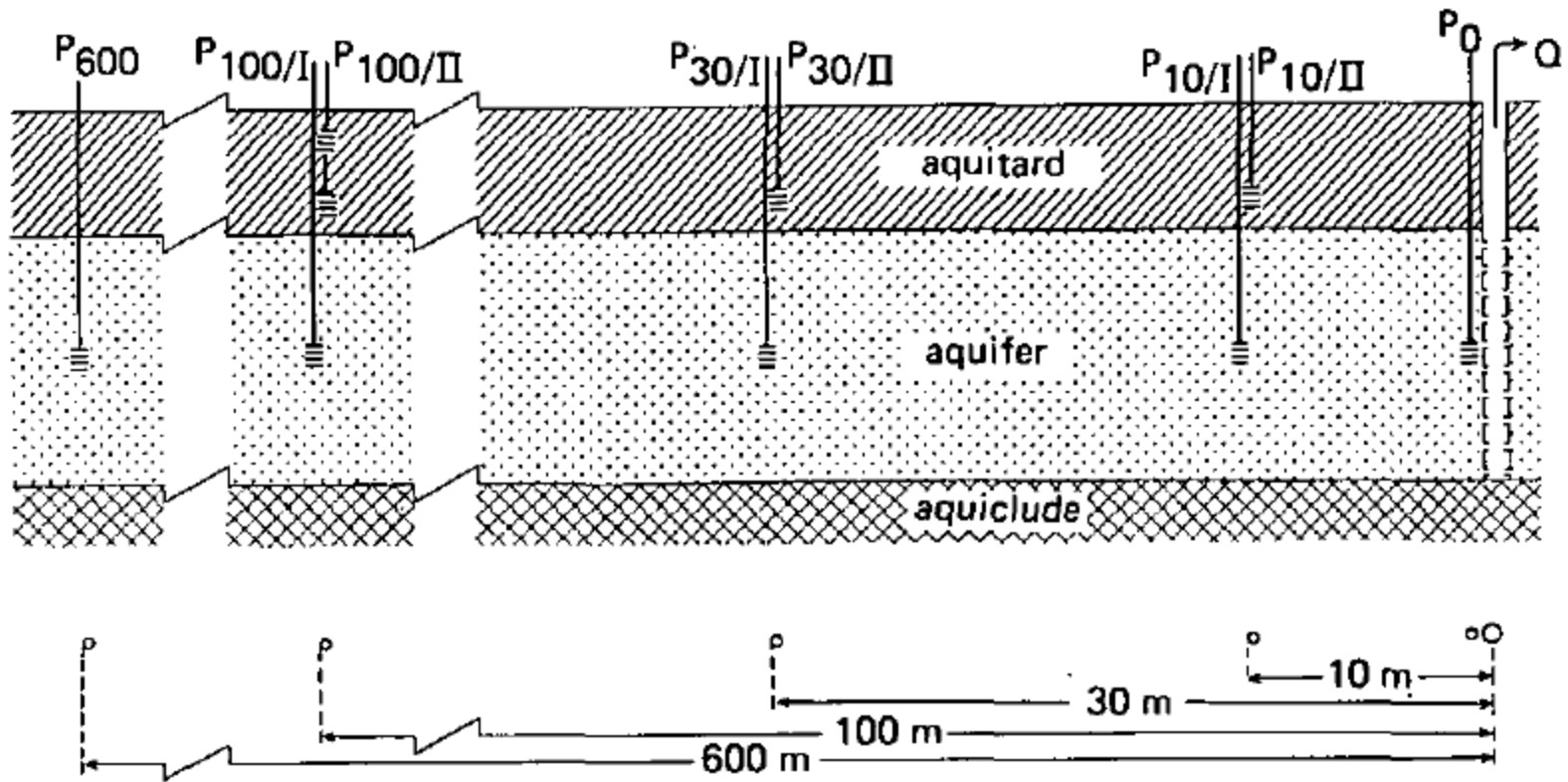


Figure 2.5 Cone of depression at a given time  $t$  in:  
A) an aquifer of high transmissivity  
B) an aquifer of low transmissivity

# Piezometers – example



# Measurements – water levels in pumping well

Table 2.1 Range of intervals between water-level measurements in well

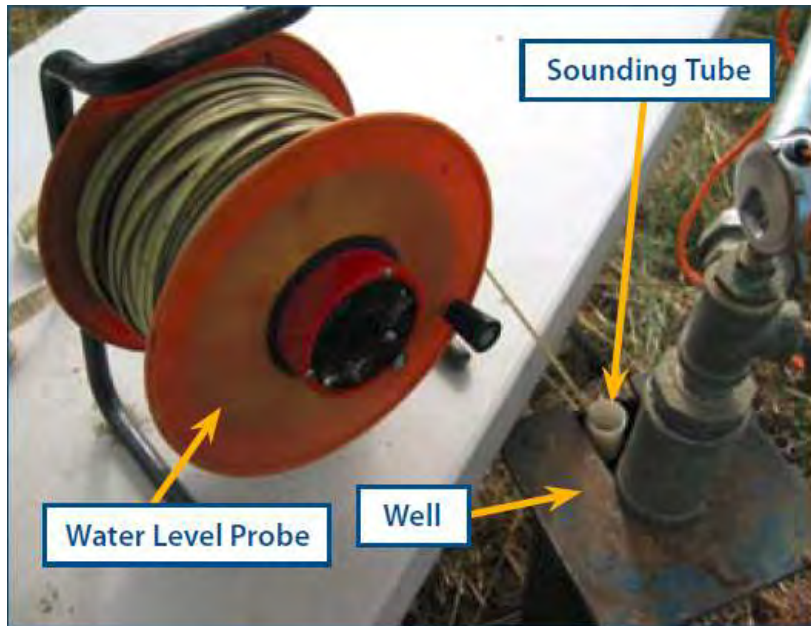
| Time since start of pumping | Time intervals |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 0– 5 minutes                | 0.5 minutes    |
| 5– 60 minutes               | 5 minutes      |
| 60–120 minutes              | 20 minutes     |
| 120–shutdown of the pump    | 60 minutes     |

# Measurements – water levels in piezometers

Table 2.2 Range of intervals between water-level measurements in piezometers

| Time since start of pumping |                        | Time intervals     |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 0                           | – 2 minutes            | approx. 10 seconds |
| 2                           | – 5 minutes            | 30 seconds         |
| 5                           | – 15 minutes           | 1 minute           |
| 15                          | – 50 minutes           | 5 minutes          |
| 50                          | – 100 minutes          | 10 minutes         |
| 100 minutes                 | – 5 hours              | 30 minutes         |
| 5 hours                     | – 48 hours             | 60 minutes         |
| 48 hours                    | – 6 days               | 3 times a day      |
| 6 days                      | – shutdown of the pump | 1 time a day       |

# Water Level Measurements





# Measurements – discharge rates (I)

1. Container – e.g. 200L oil drum
2. Circular orifice weir
3. V-notch
4. Flow meter

Note that it is advisable to always use two independent discharge rate measurement devices.

Discharge should be measured once every hour and kept constant.

# Container



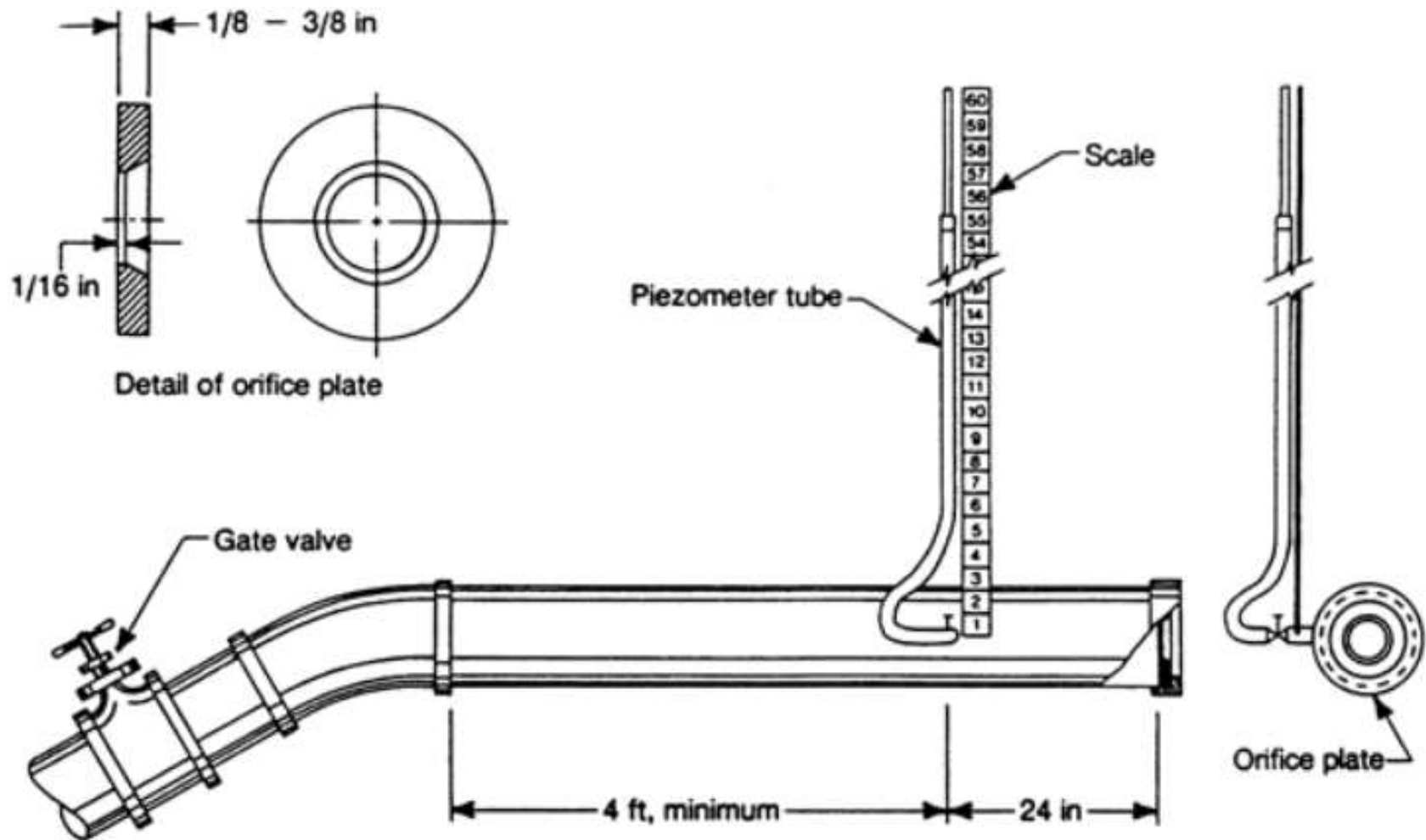


# V-notch weir



Source: [https://www.hydrogeologist.net/ipnmonitor/templates/basic\\_JMA/images/V-notch.png](https://www.hydrogeologist.net/ipnmonitor/templates/basic_JMA/images/V-notch.png)

# Circular orifice weir



# Circular orifice weir

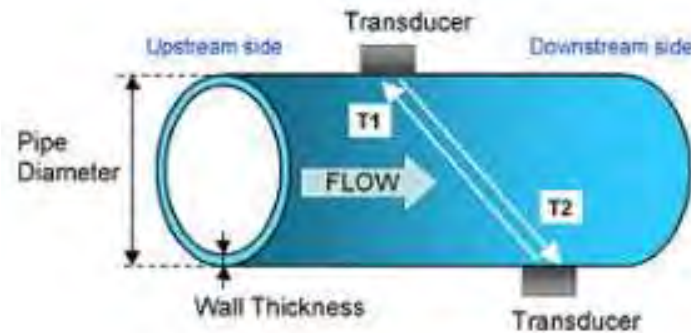


Source: [http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/objtwr/imported\\_assets/content/lwe/regions/nrr/rmtr\\_2\\_weaber\\_plain\\_aquifer\\_test\\_results.pdf](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/objtwr/imported_assets/content/lwe/regions/nrr/rmtr_2_weaber_plain_aquifer_test_results.pdf)

# Standard Flow meter

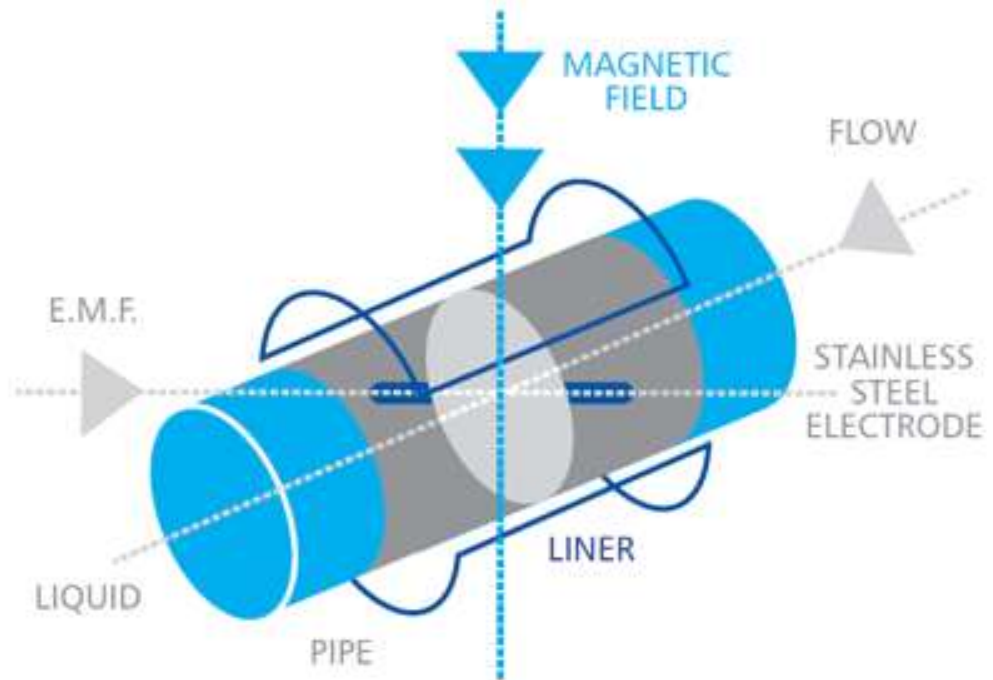


# Ultrasonic Flow meter





# Electromagnetic Flow meter



# Duration of the Pumping Test

1. Longer duration gives better data, but there are financial considerations.
2. Ideally the pumping test should reach steady state, though it is not a requirement.
3. Typical pumping test durations:
  - Confined & leaky aquifers: 24h
  - Unconfined aquifers: 3 days
  - Municipal water supply: 21 days

# Equipment & personnel needs

1. Flow meter(s)
2. Water level indicators & pressure transducers.
3. Stop watches (synchronized).
4. Hydrochemical equipment (EC, pH, Eh, DO)
5. Qualified personnel (one hydrogeologist & two or more helpers depending on complexity and duration of test).



# TOPICS TO BE COVERED

1. Terminology
2. Purpose of pumping tests
3. How to plan and set up a pumping test
4. Analysis of pumping test data
5. Reporting

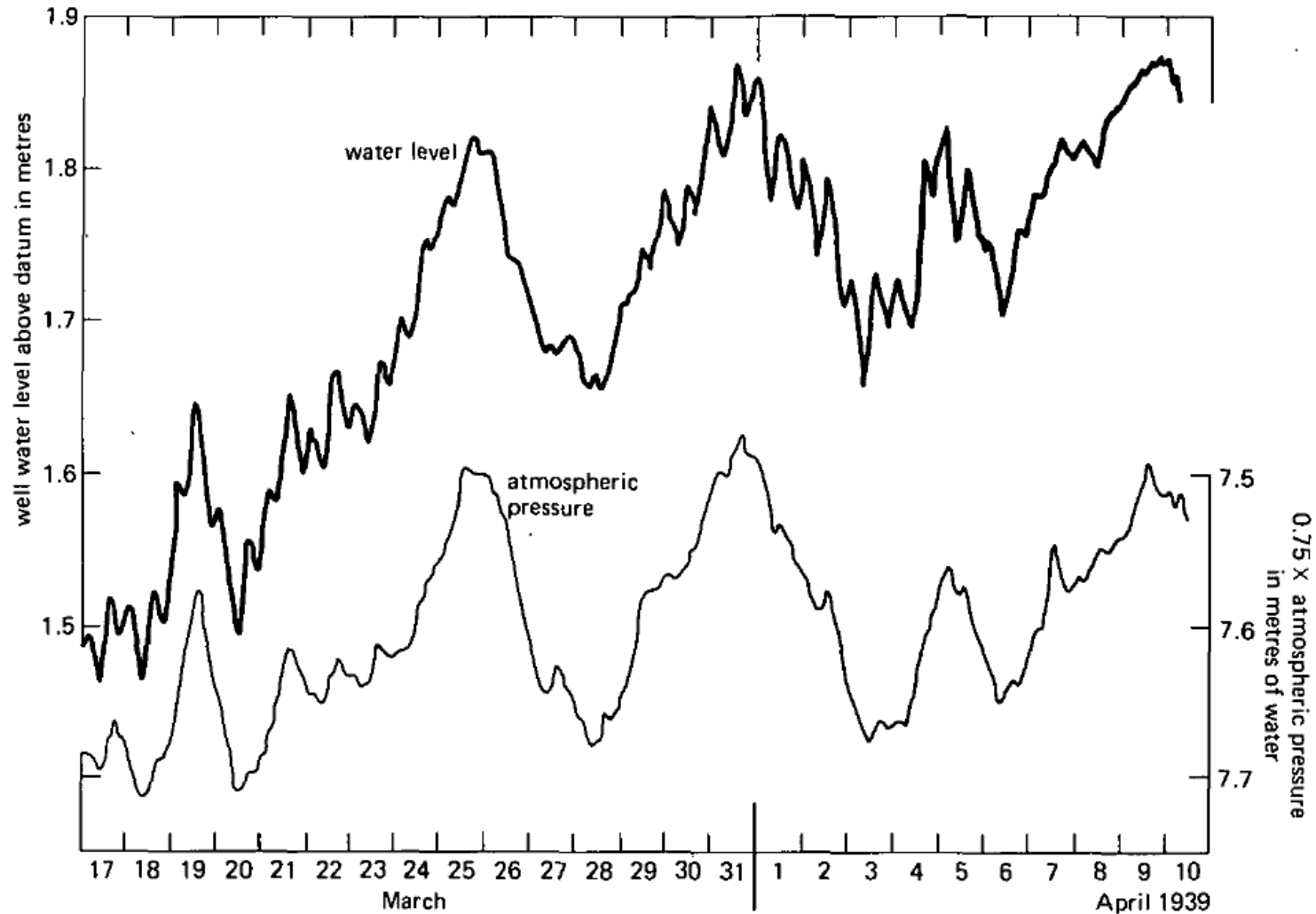
# PART 4 – Analysis of Pumping Test Data

1. Data Processing
2. Data Interpretation

# Data Processing

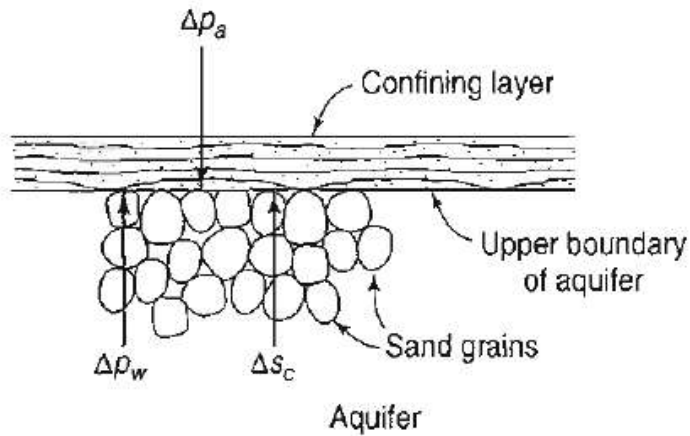
1. Convert all data into standard units.  
e.g. Time = days & Length = metres
2. Correct the data for external influences.  
e.g. water level trends before & after the test
3. Correct data for rhythmic fluctuations  
e.g. tides, barometric fluctuations, diurnal fluctuations.

# Atmospheric Pressure Influences

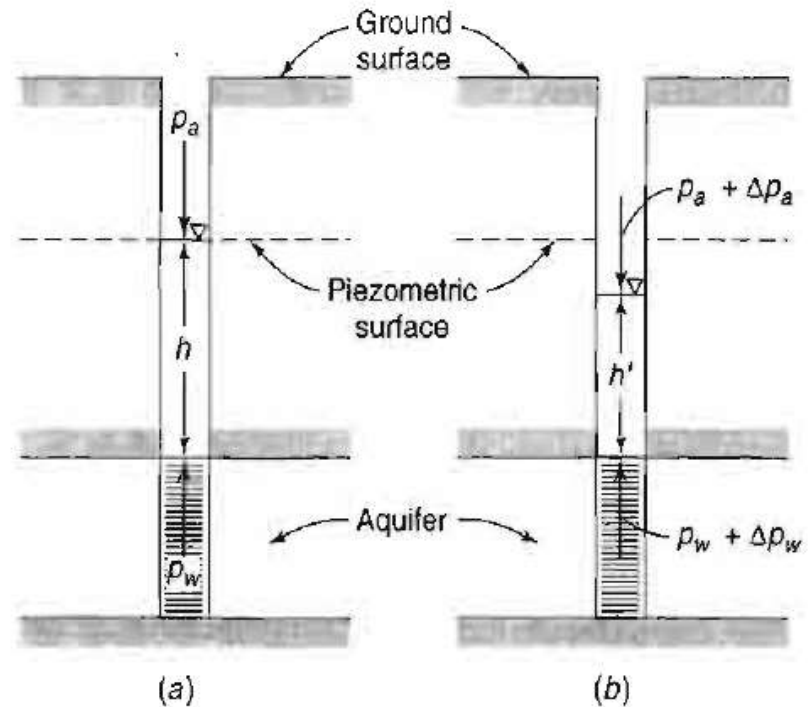


Source: Kruseman & de Ridder, (1994), Analysis and Evaluation of Pumping Test Data; ILRI publication 47

# Atmospheric Pressure & Confined Aquifers



**Figure 6.4.2.** Idealized distribution of forces at the upper boundary of a confined aquifer resulting from a change in atmospheric pressure.



**Figure 6.4.3.** Effect of an increase in atmospheric pressure on the water level of a well penetrating a confined aquifer.

# Water Table Fluctuations & Recharge

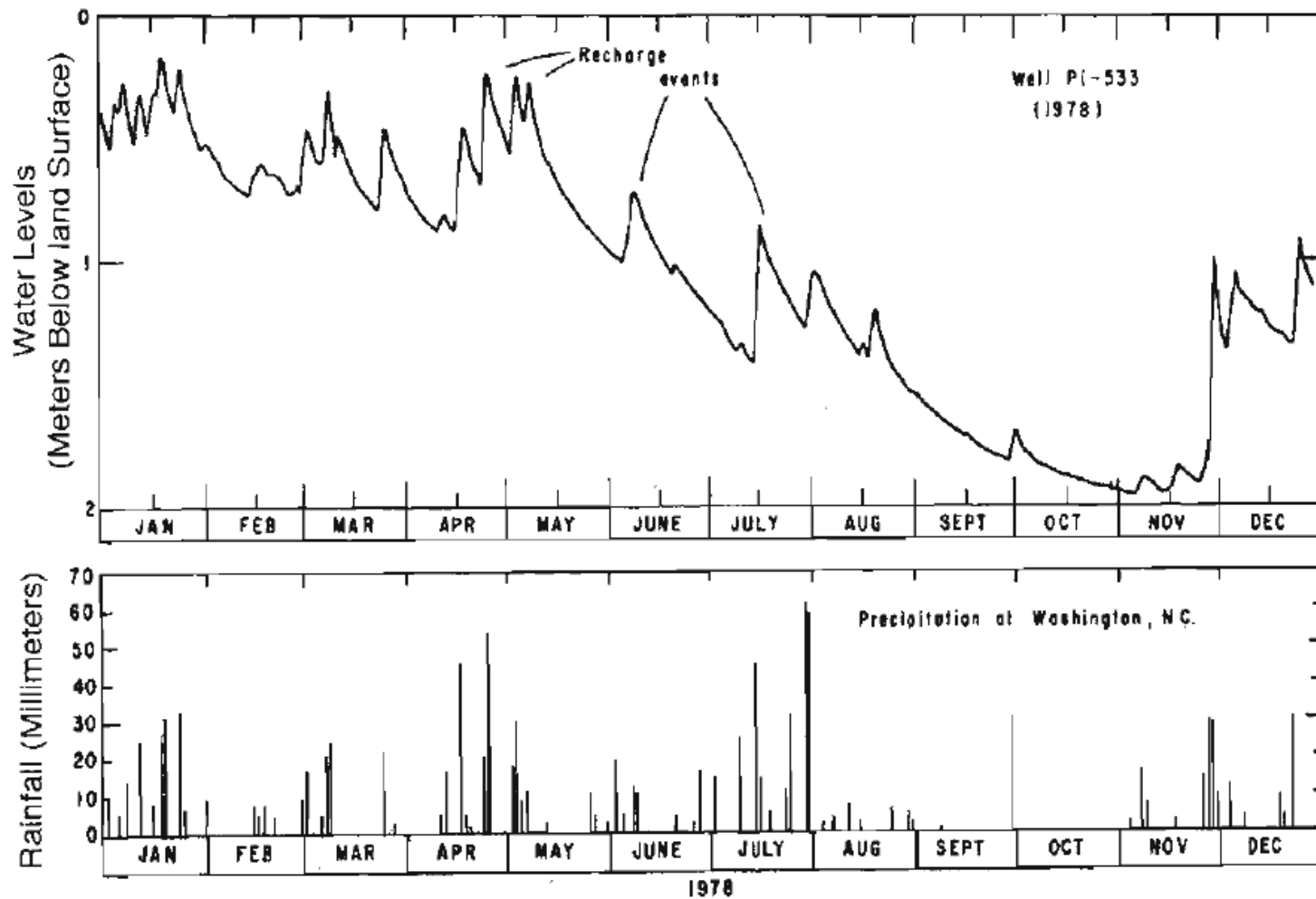
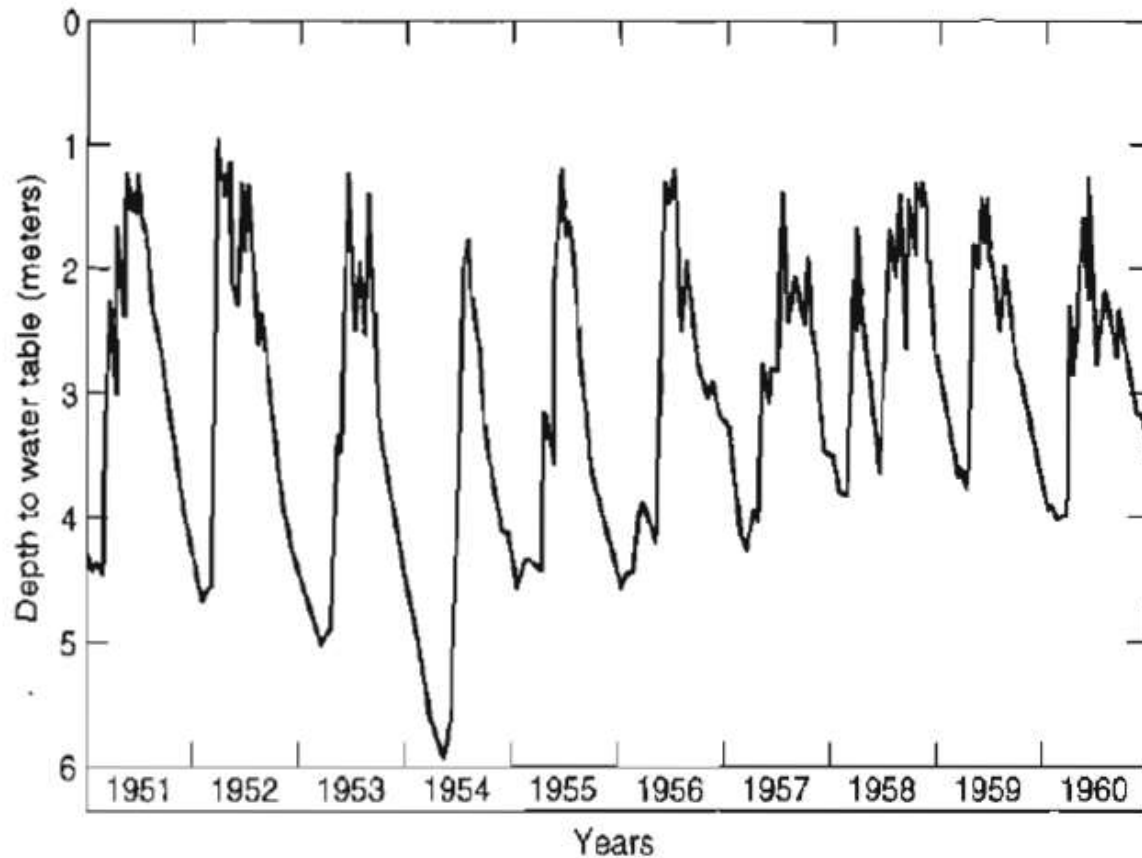


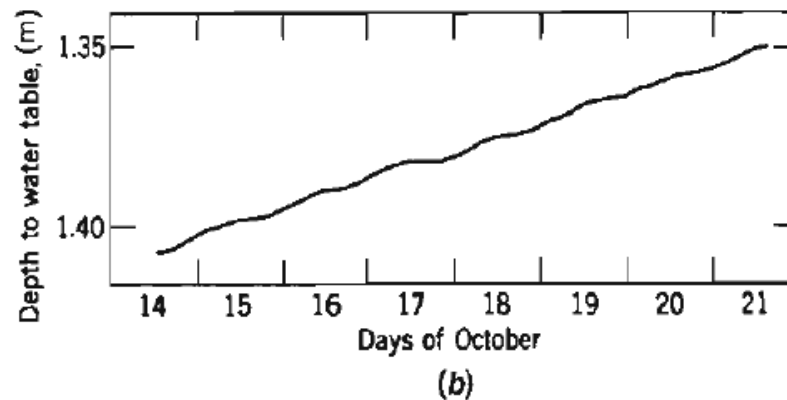
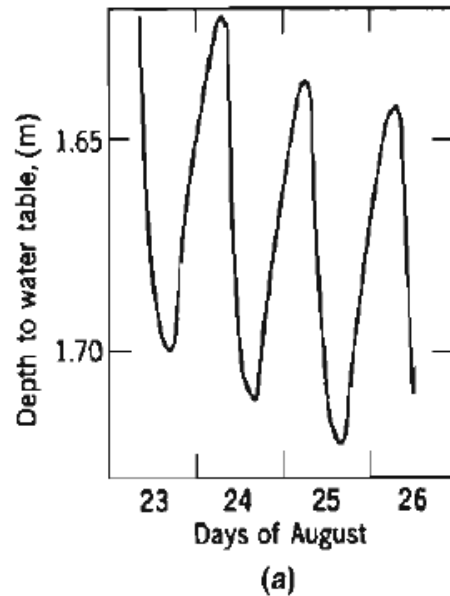
Figure 6.1.2. Fluctuation of the water table in the coastal plain of North Carolina (Heath<sup>34</sup>).

# Seasonal Fluctuations



**Figure 6.1.7.** Seasonal fluctuations of the water table in a glacial till aquifer in Ohio. Well depth is 9 m (after Klein and Kaser<sup>51</sup>).

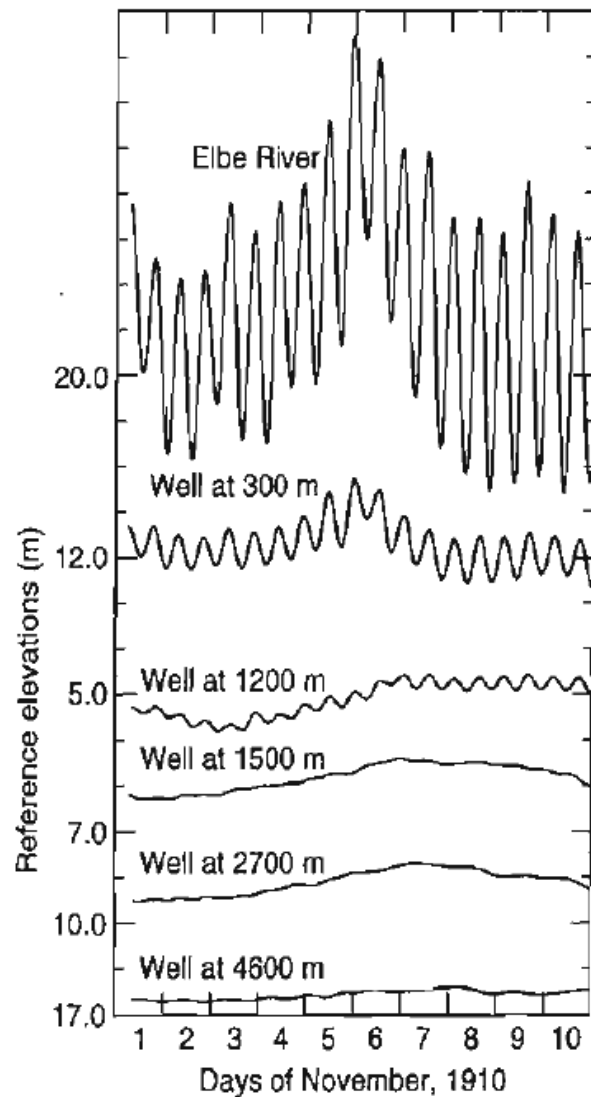
# Evapotranspiration Effects



**Figure 6.3.2.** Effect of transpiration discharge on groundwater levels near Milford, Utah. (a) In summer (b) After frost (after White<sup>95</sup>)

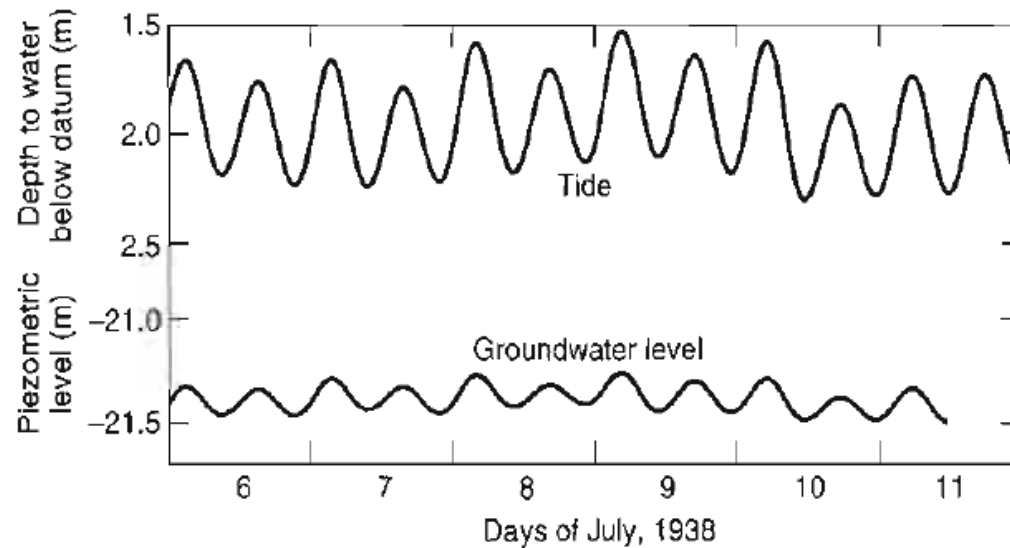


# River Stage & Groundwater Levels



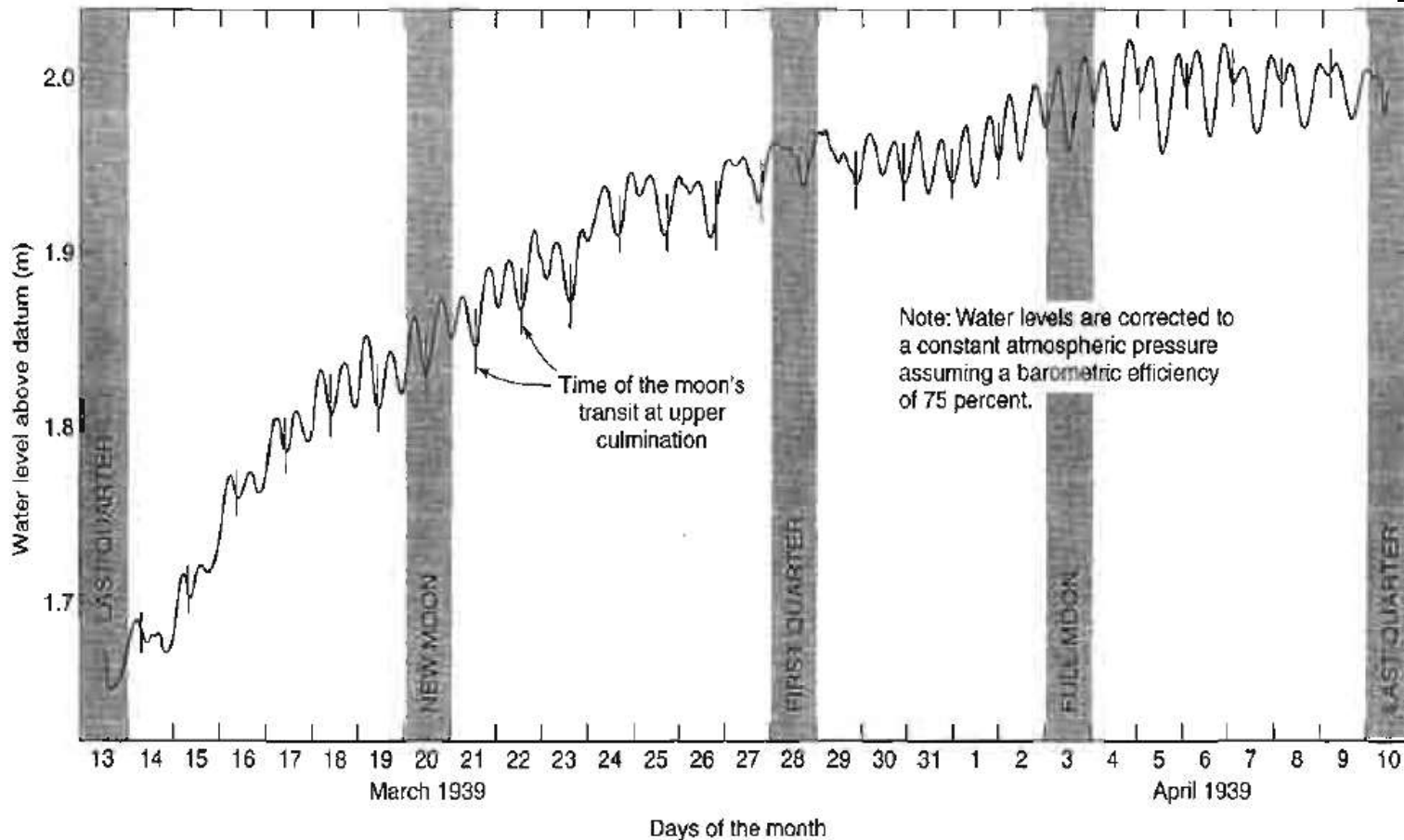
**Figure 6.5.2.** Fluctuations of the Elbe River and water table levels in wells at various distances from the river (after Werner and Noren<sup>93</sup>).

# Tidal Influences



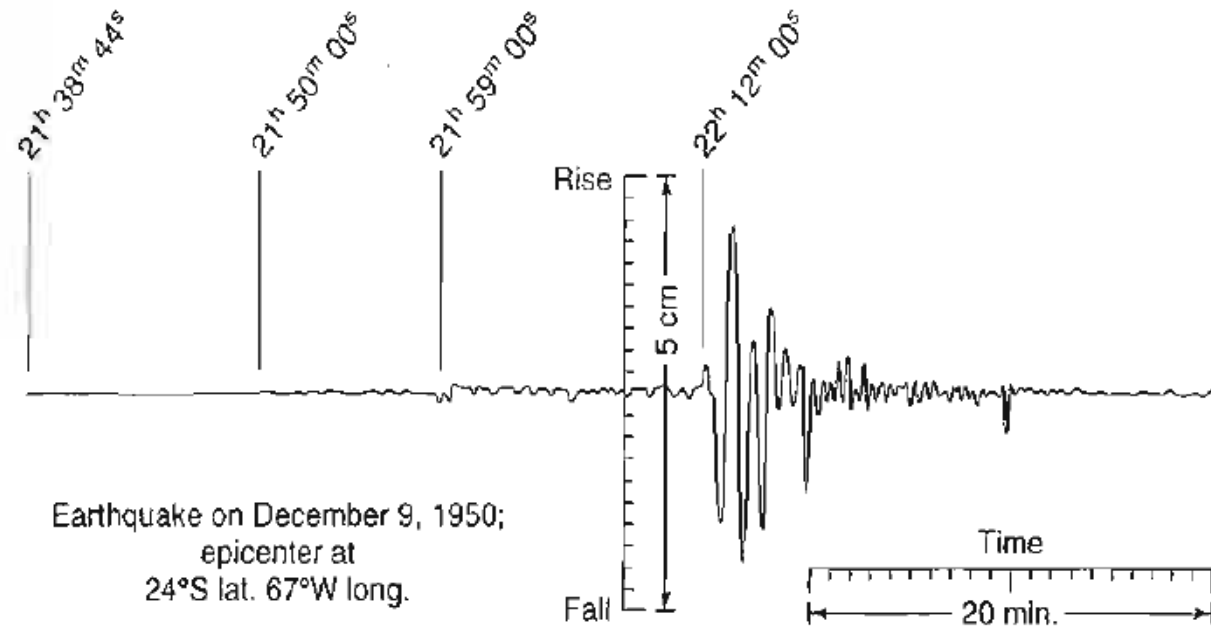
**Figure 6.5.3.** Tidal fluctuations and induced piezometric surface fluctuations observed in a well 30 m from shore at Mattawoman Creek, Maryland (after Meinzer<sup>56</sup>).

# Earth Tides & Water Levels



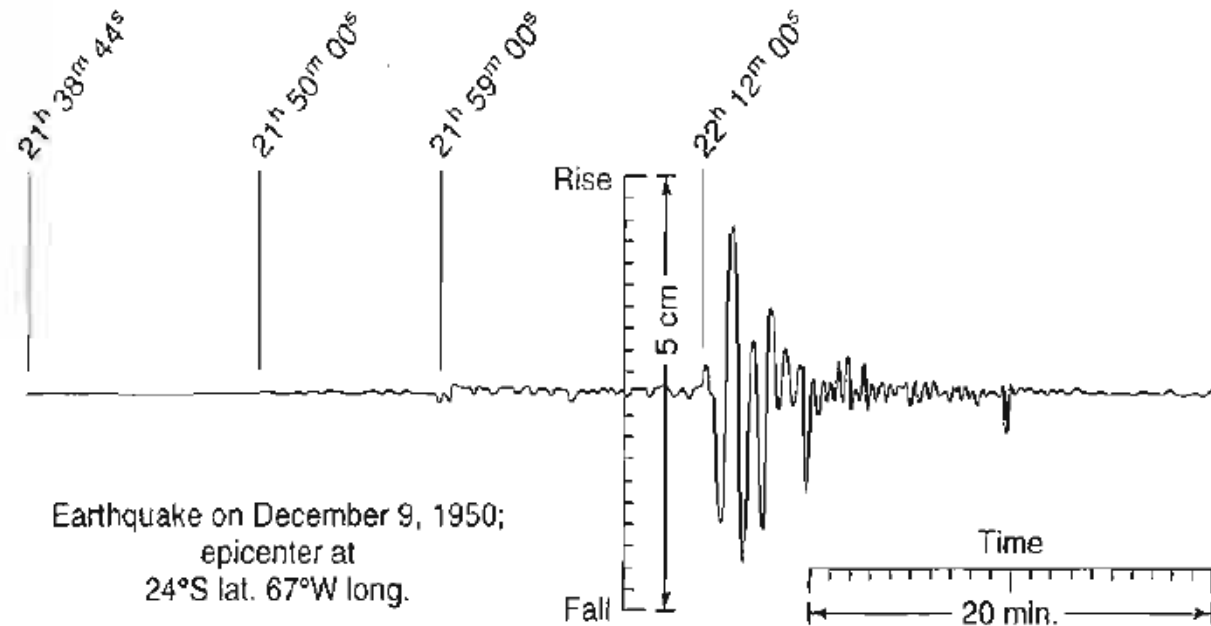
**Figure 6.5.4.** Water level fluctuations in a confined aquifer produced by earth tides (after Robinson<sup>71</sup>).

# Earthquakes & Water Levels



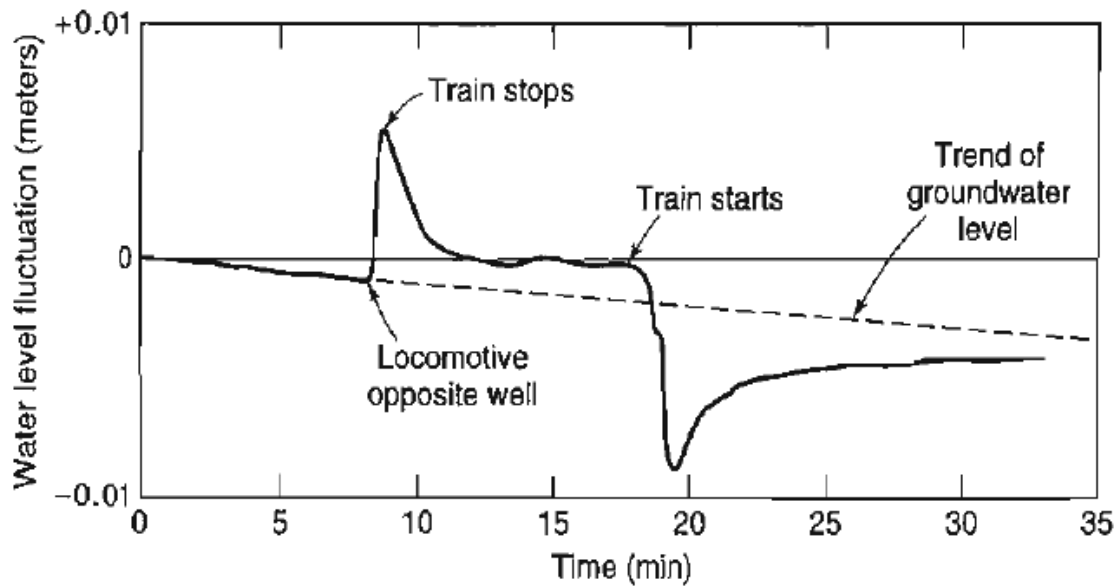
**Figure 6.7.1.** Water level fluctuations in a well at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, resulting from an earthquake centered on the Argentina–Chile border (after Vorhis<sup>91</sup>)

# Earthquakes & Water Levels



**Figure 6.7.1.** Water level fluctuations in a well at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, resulting from an earthquake centered on the Argentina–Chile border (after Vorhis<sup>91</sup>)

# External Loads & Water Levels



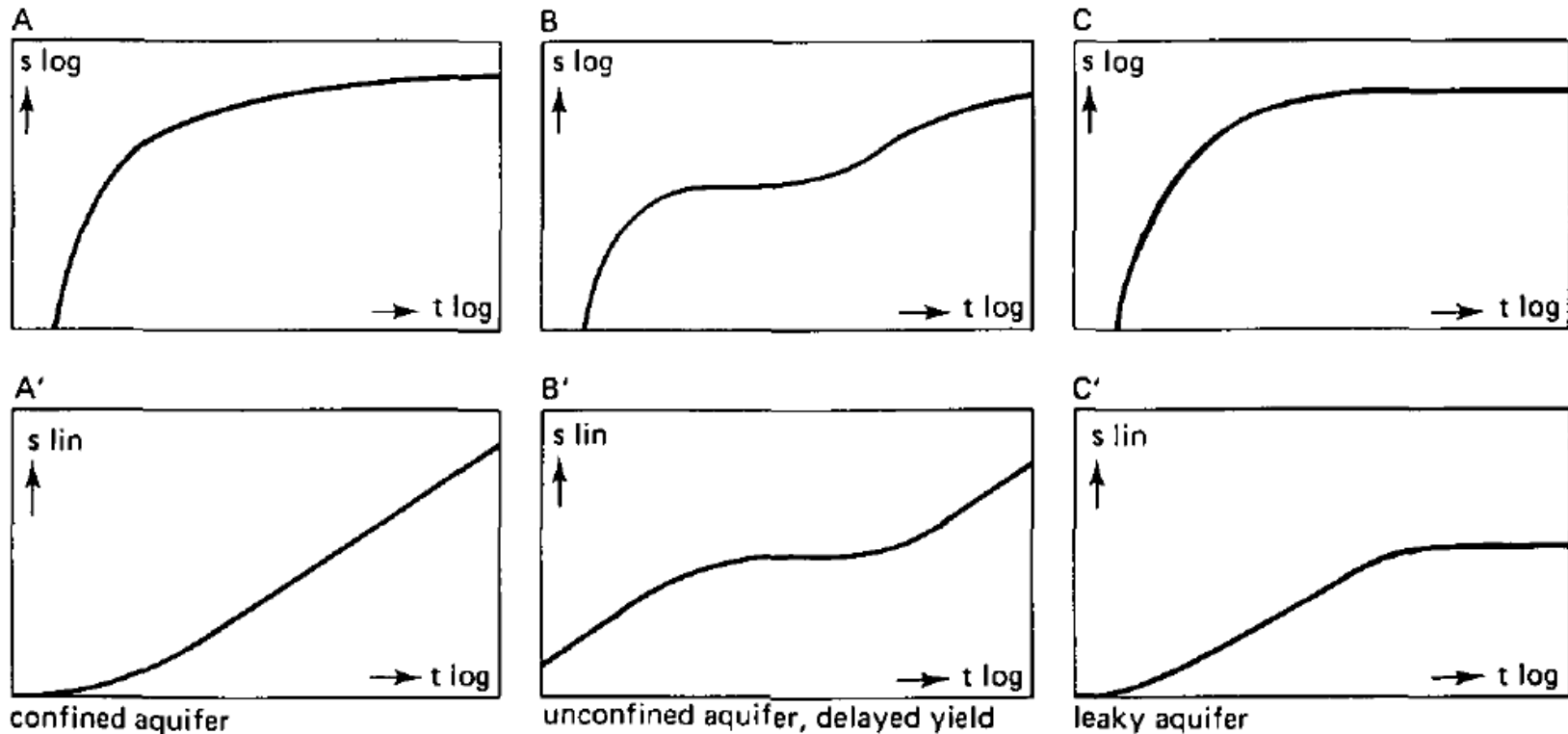
Source: <http://www.lumixgexperience.panasonic.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/gallery/G10Col/Steam-train.jpg>

**Figure 6.8.1.** Water level fluctuations in a confined aquifer produced by a train stopping and starting near an observation well (after Jacob<sup>47</sup>).

# Data Interpretation

1. Plot the data on log-log and semi-log plots.
2. Identify the aquifer type.
3. Chose the correct processing technique.

# Data Interpretation – unconsolidated aquifers





# Data Interpretation – fractured aquifers

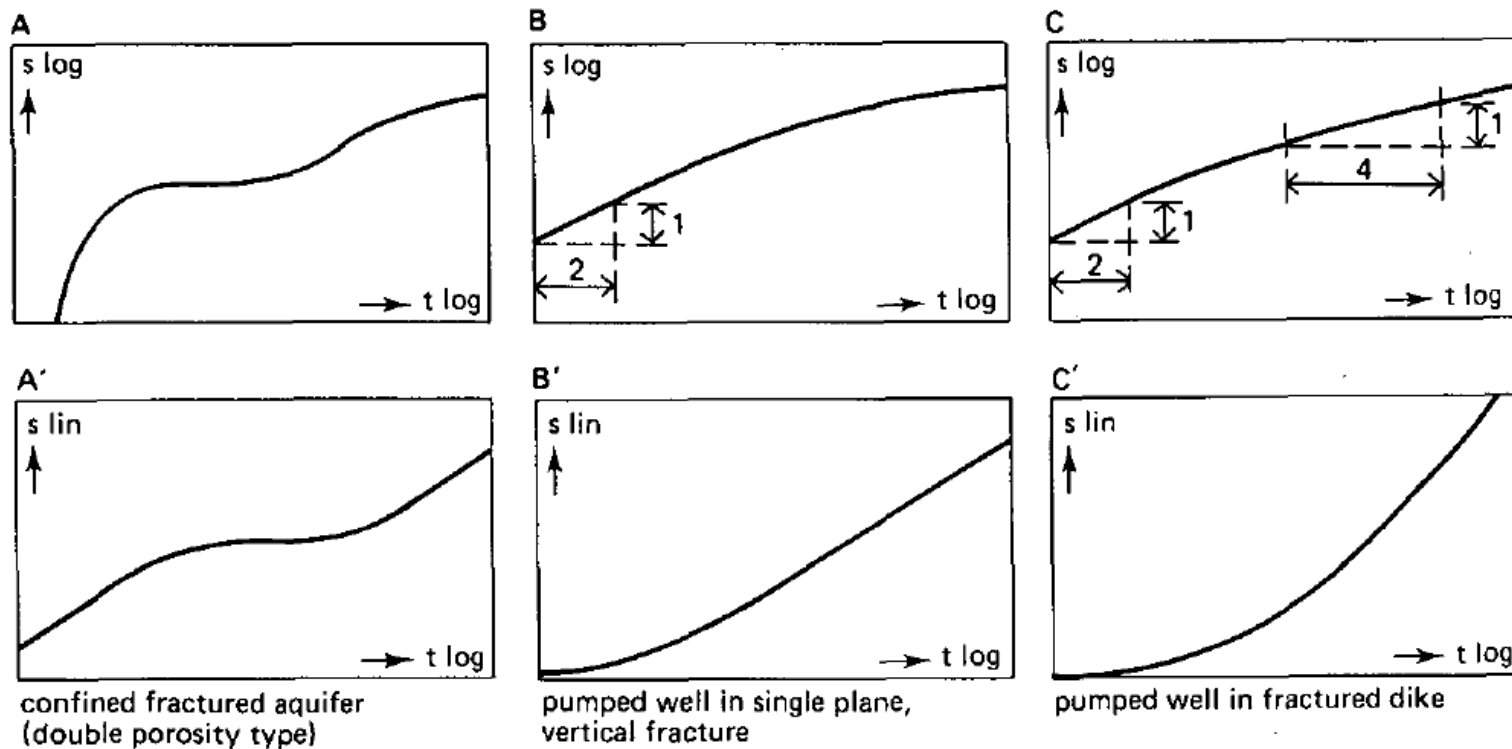


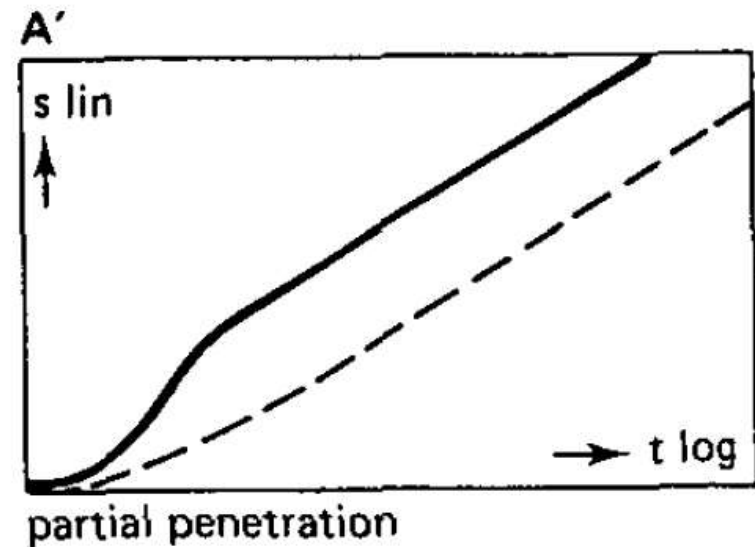
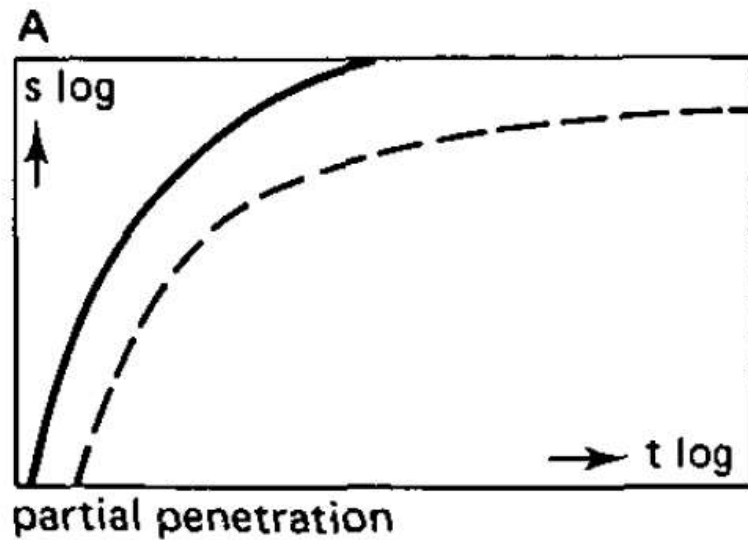
Figure 2.13 Log-log and semi-log plots of the theoretical time-drawdown relationships of consolidated, fractured aquifers:

Parts A and A': Confined fractured aquifer, double porosity type

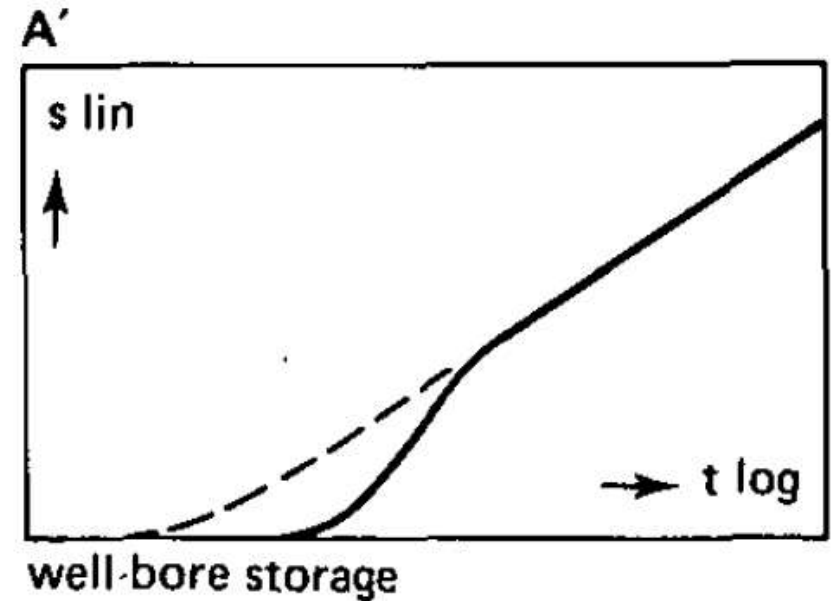
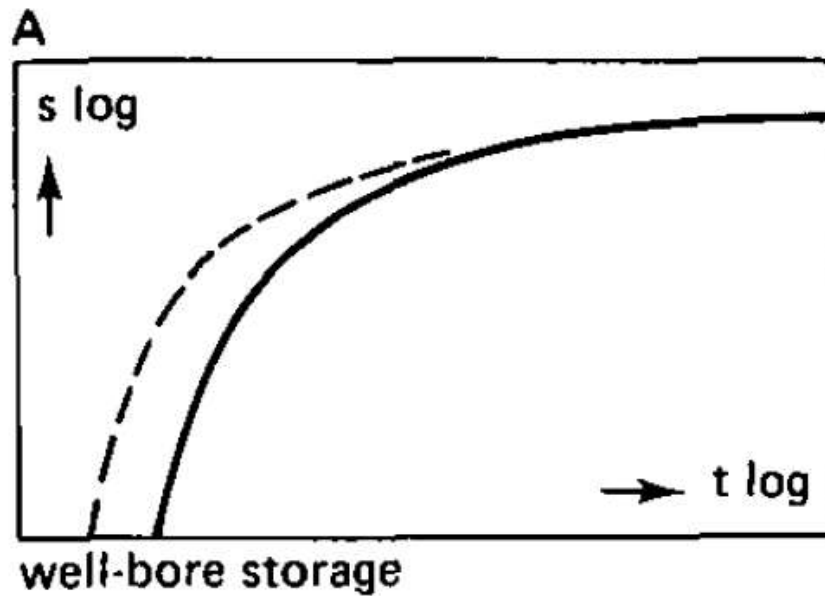
Parts B and B': A single plane vertical fracture

Parts C and C': A permeable dike in an otherwise poorly permeable aquifer

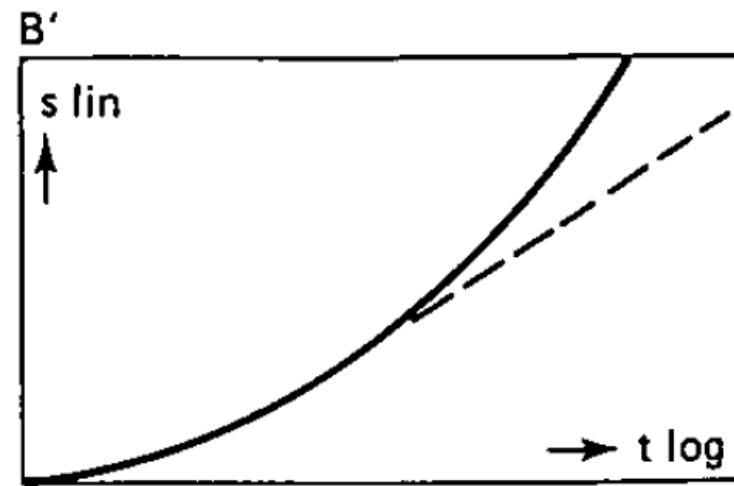
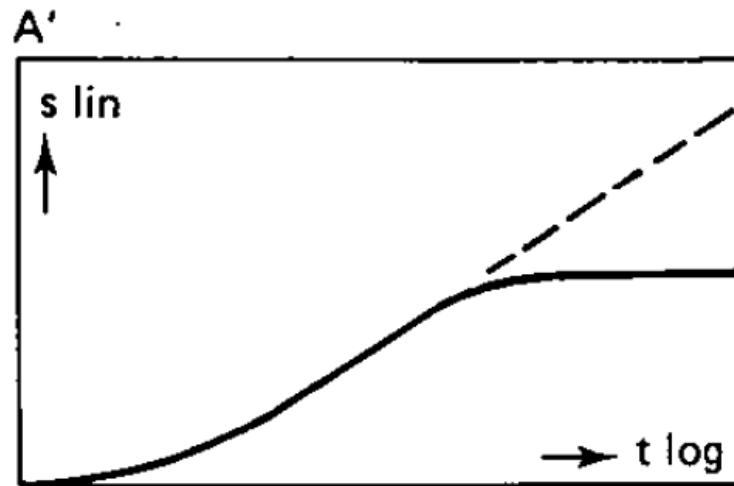
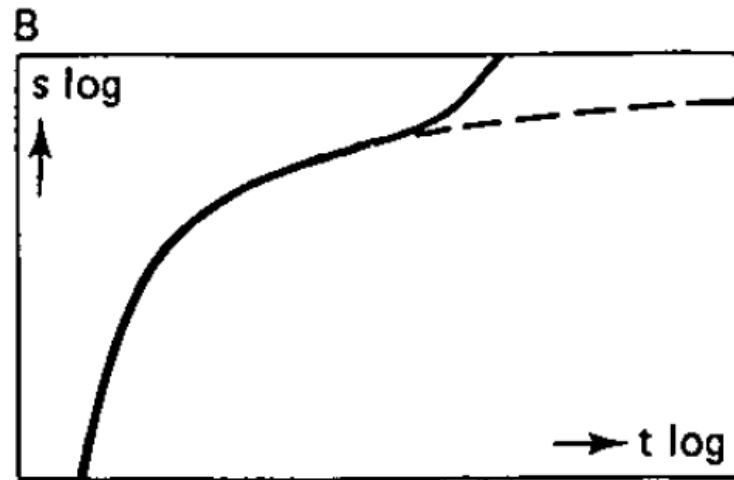
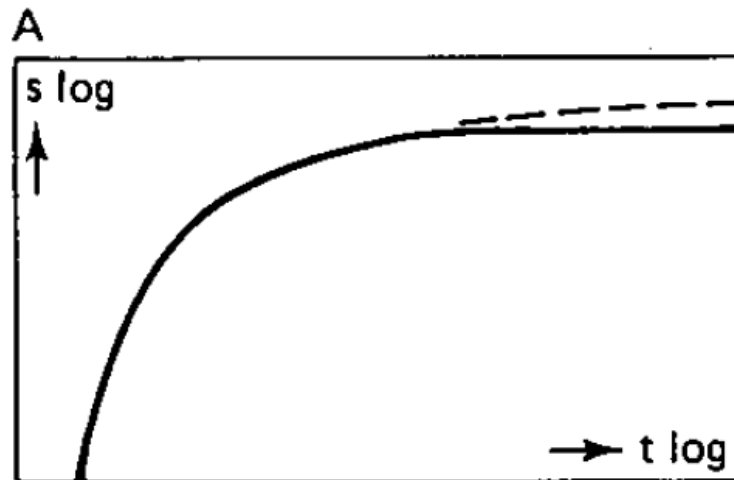
# Data Interpretation – partial penetration



# Data Interpretation – well-bore storage



# Data Interpretation – boundaries



recharge boundary

barrier boundary

# TOPICS TO BE COVERED

1. Terminology
2. Purpose of pumping tests
3. How to plan and set up a pumping test
4. Analysis of pumping test data
5. Reporting

# PART 5 – Reporting (I)

1. Executive summary.
2. Map of the test site showing the pumping well, piezometers and any barrier or recharge boundaries.
3. Lithological cross sections.
4. Tables of field measurements

## PART 5 – Reporting (II)

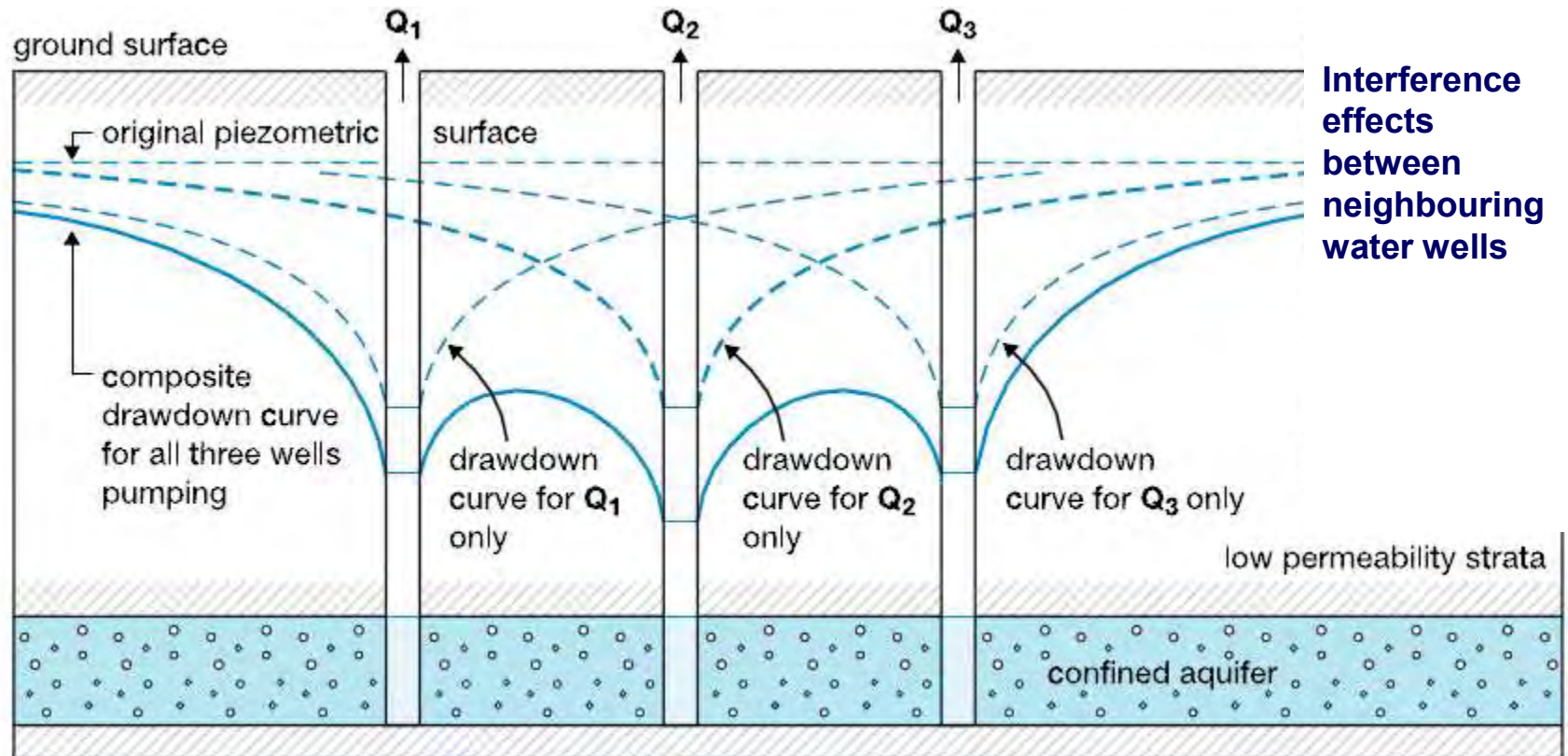
5. Hydrographs.
6. Time & distance drawdown curves.
7. Reasons for selecting the theoretical model.
8. Calculated values of aquifer characteristics.
9. Likely groundwater recharge areas, recharge rates & sustainability of water source.
10. Potential groundwater pollution sources.
11. Conclusions & recommendations.

# Key Questions to Address in the Report

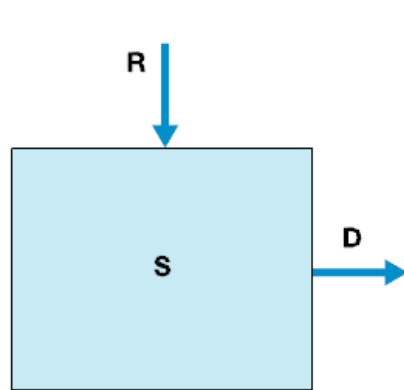
- What rate can the well be pumped at?
- What are the likely groundwater recharge rates?
- What is the likely recharge area of the well?
- How sustainable is the well at the proposed pumping rates?
- What happens when there is a drought?



# Interference Effects Between Wells

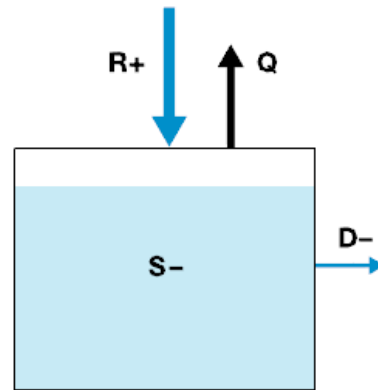


# Groundwater Sustainability



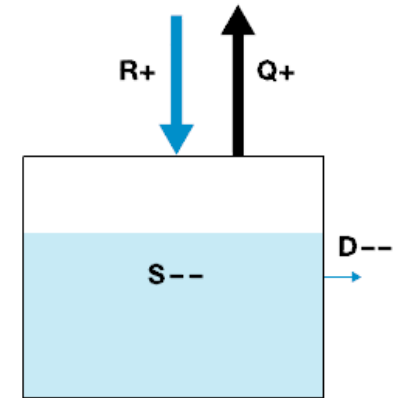
## NATURAL CONDITIONS

in the long term  $R = D$ ,  
and  $S$  is constant



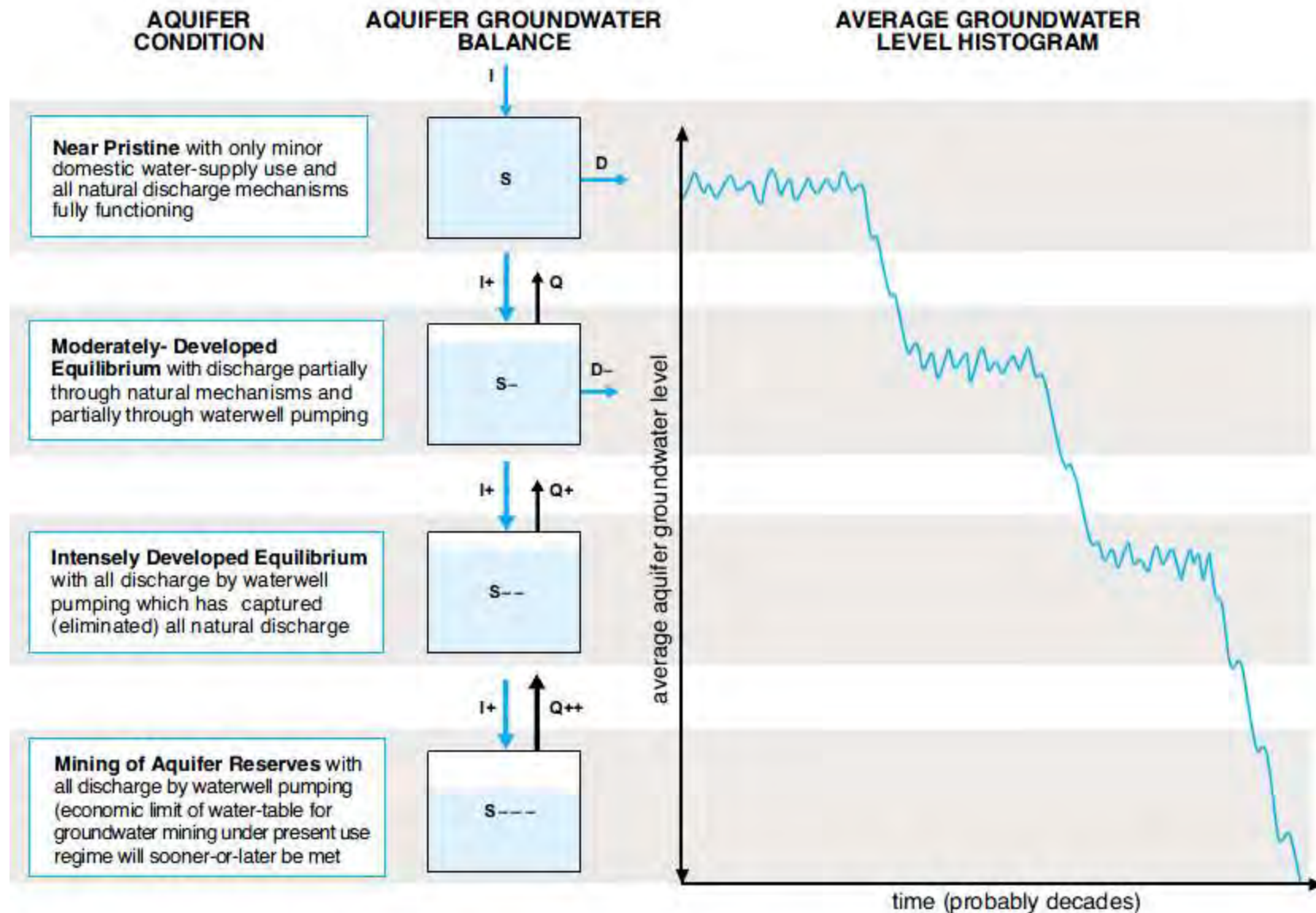
## STABLE GROUNDWATER PUMPING

$Q$  is equivalent to reduction in  
 $D$  and  $S$ , plus increase in  $R$



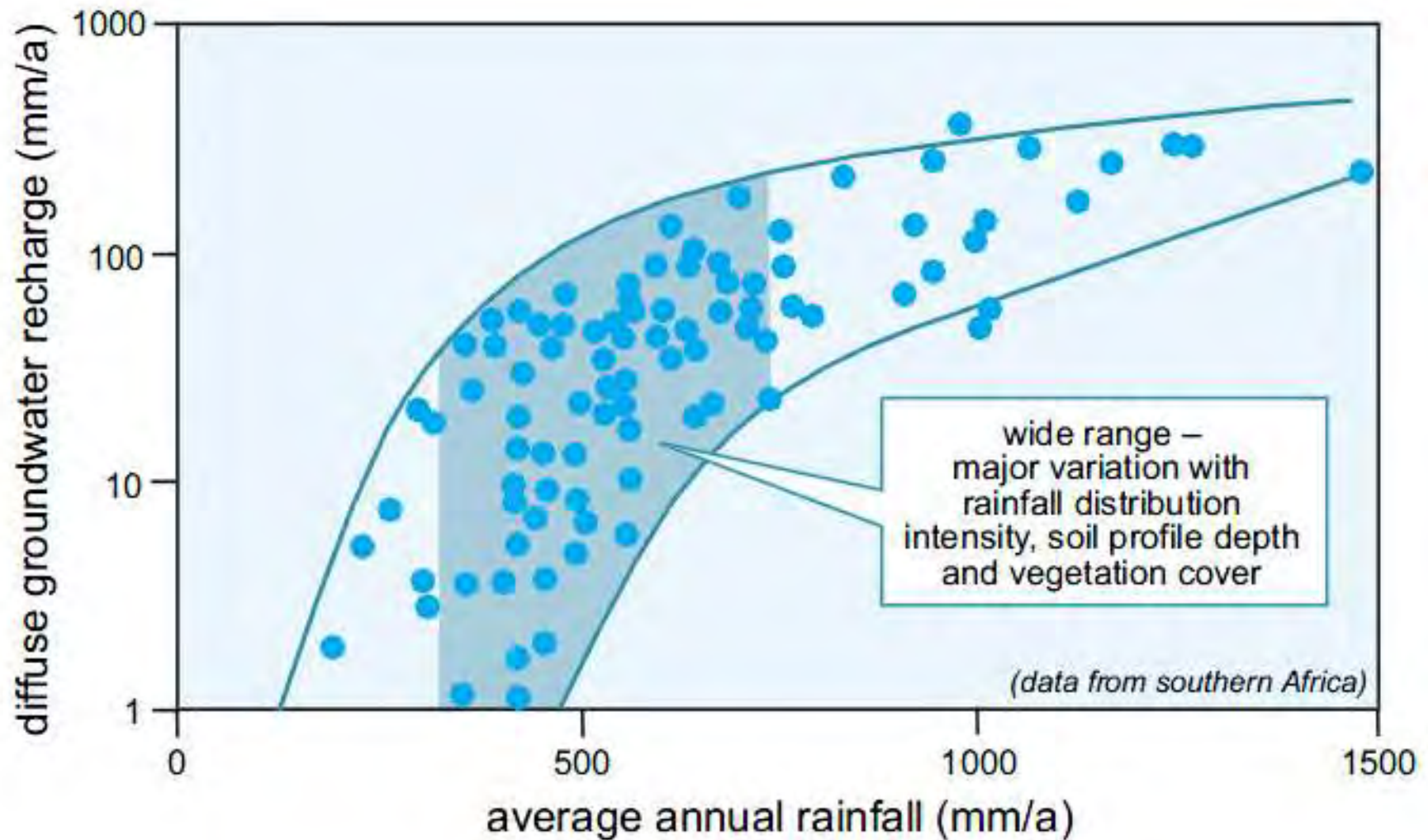
## UNSUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER PUMPING

$Q+$  is greater than  $R+$  plus  $D--$  (which reduces to 0)  
and  $S--$  decreases continuously



I = Infiltration      D = natural discharge      + and - used to indicate relative change of corresponding groundwater balance component with respect to preceding condition  
 Q = waterwell pumping      S = aquifer storage

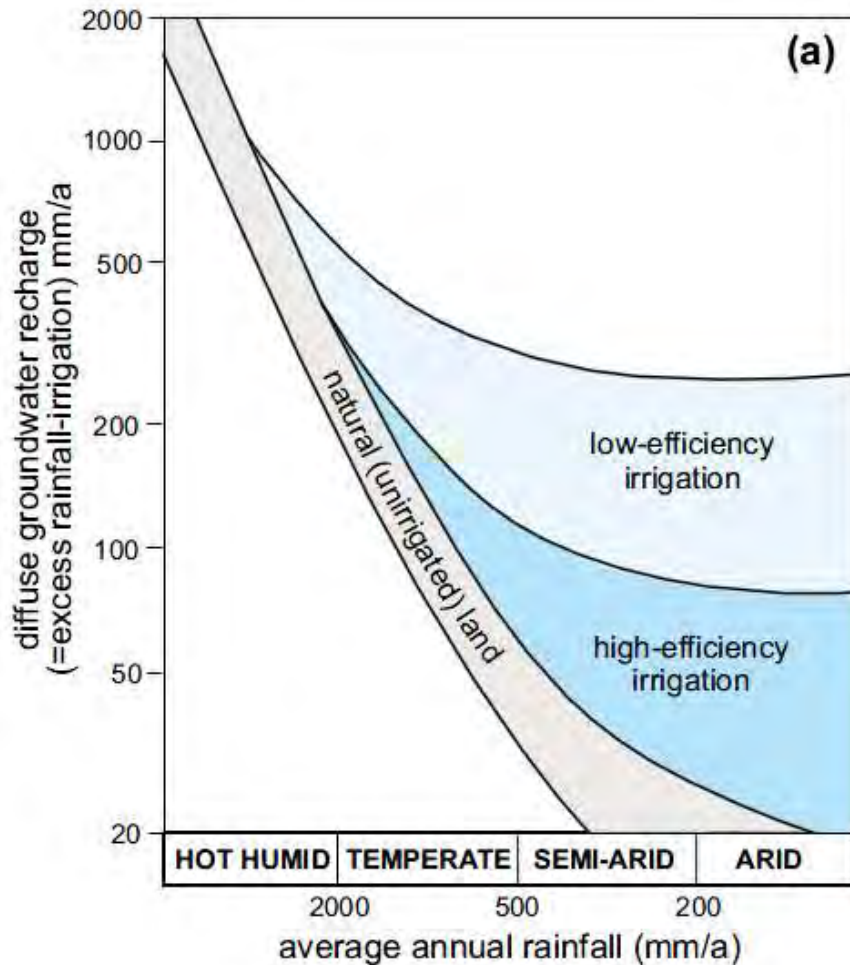
# Groundwater Diffuse Recharge Rates



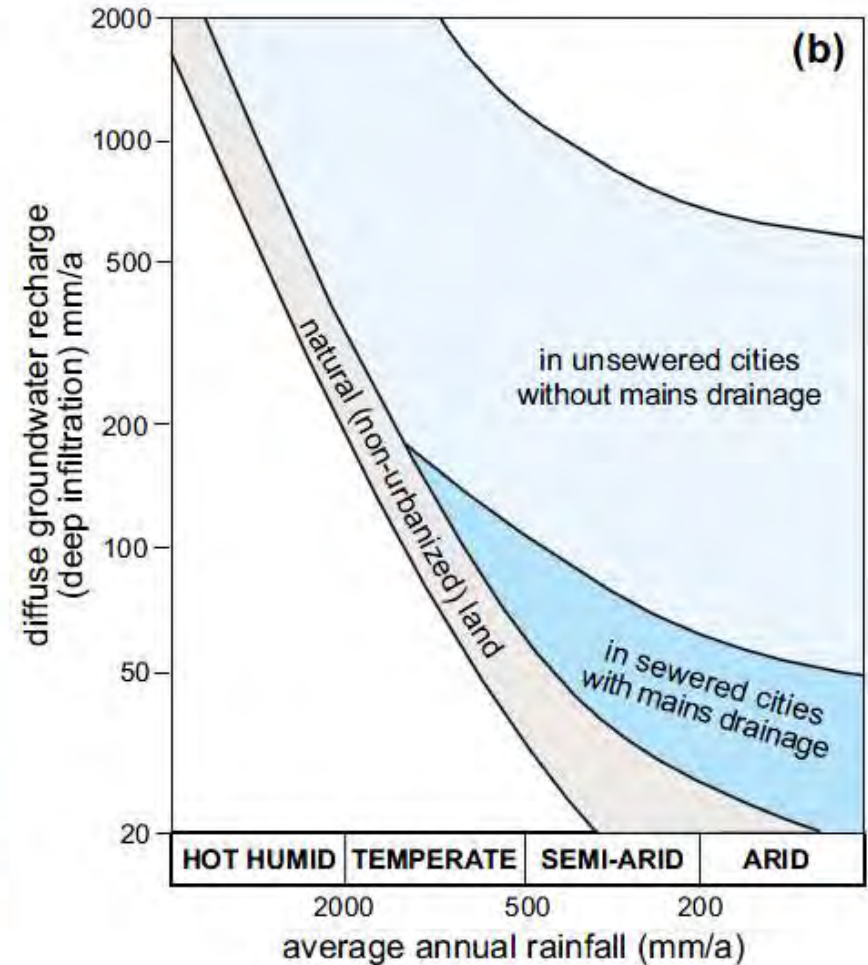


# Augmented Groundwater Recharge Rates

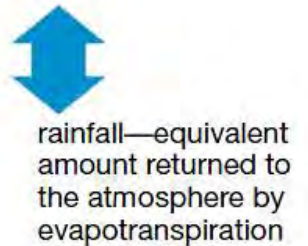
(a) irrigated agriculture



(b) urbanisation



a) traditional methods  
(canal distribution, flood application)



↑  
non-beneficial  
evapotranspiration  
during distribution  
and irrigation

irrigation returns  
to groundwater table

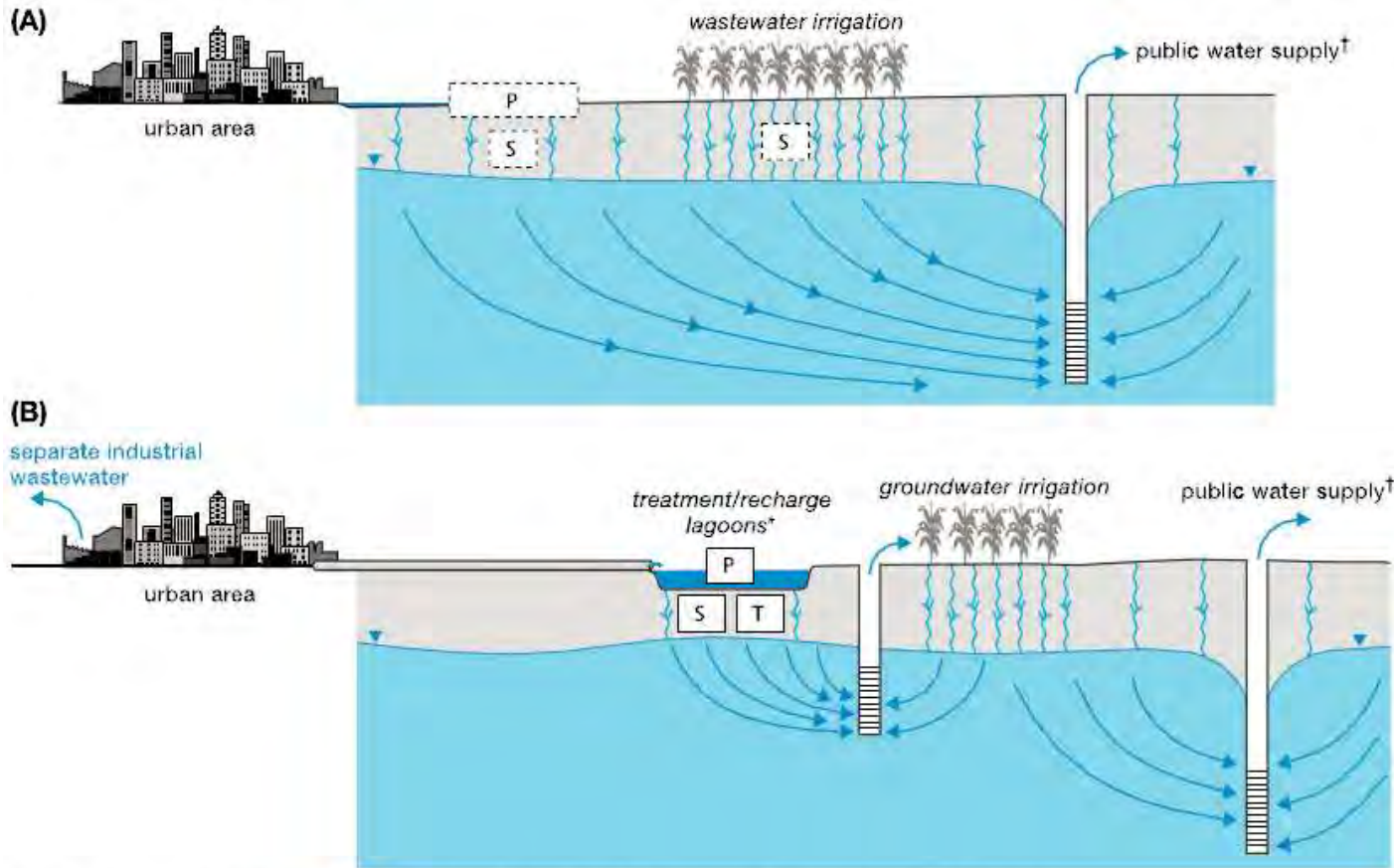
(pipe distribution/application)

The diagram illustrates the water flow and losses in a pipe distribution system. A large blue arrow on the left indicates the total water entering the system. A horizontal blue arrow represents the flow in the pipe. Above the pipe, a blue upward arrow is labeled '5', and below it, a white downward arrow is labeled '20'. The pipe then branches into a series of smaller pipes, each serving a group of plants. Above the first branch, a blue upward arrow is labeled '15'. Above the second branch, a blue double-headed arrow is labeled '130', and below it, a white downward arrow is labeled '25'. Above the third branch, a blue upward arrow is labeled '165'. The plants are represented by small green icons with blue arrows indicating water flow to them.

GROUNDWATER ABSTRACTION:  
CANAL EFFICIENCY:  
OVERALL IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY:

185 net  
89%  
72%

# Groundwater Recharge from Urban Areas



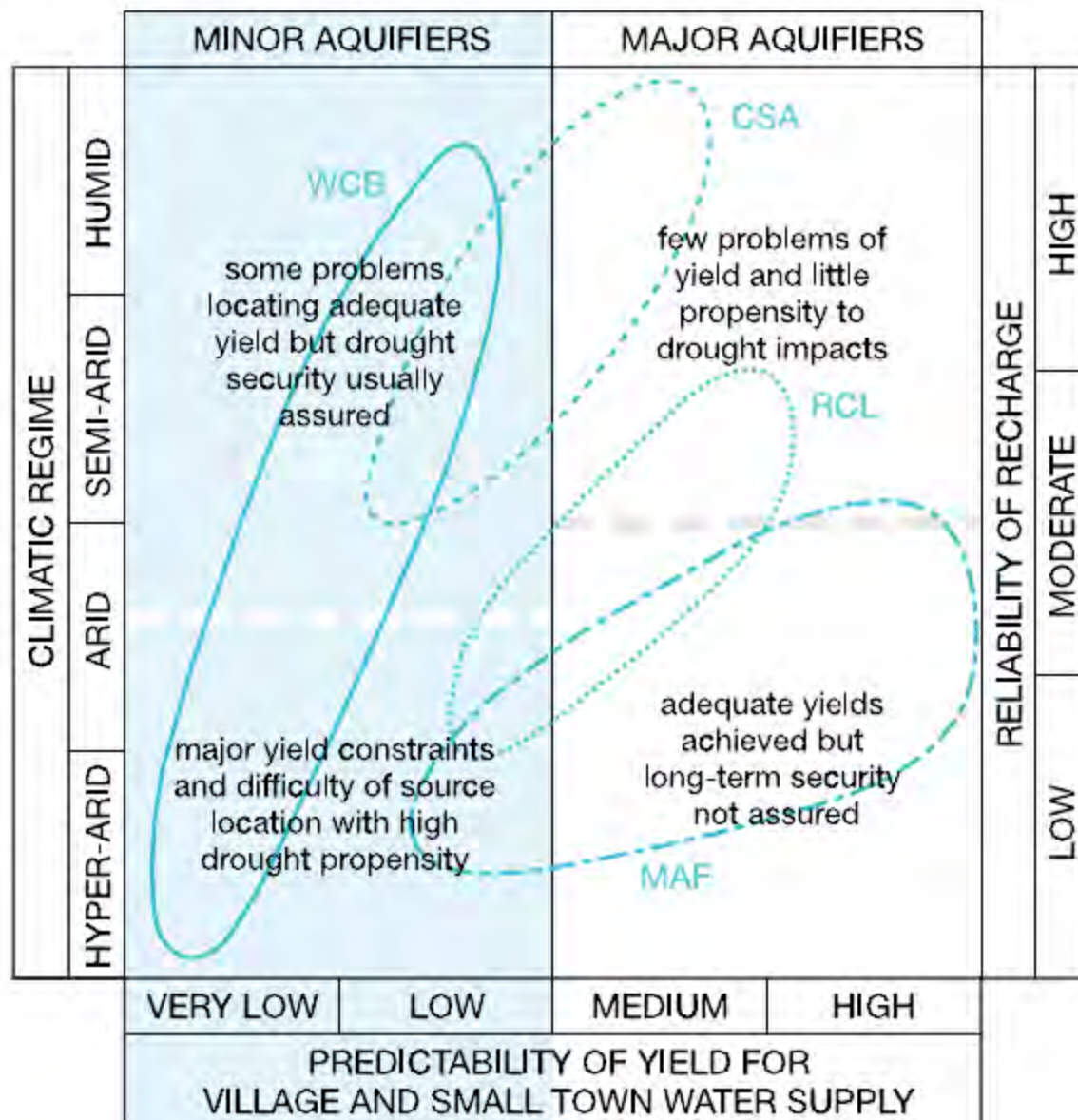
P/S/T
P/S/T
 effective level of wastewater treatment (P= primary; S = secondary; T = tertiary)  
 dotted box indicates incidental (unplanned) process

\* treatment plant can substitute for lagoons (especially where land is at a premium) providing that higher capital and running costs are acceptable

† should have appropriate surveillance and treatment



# Drought Security



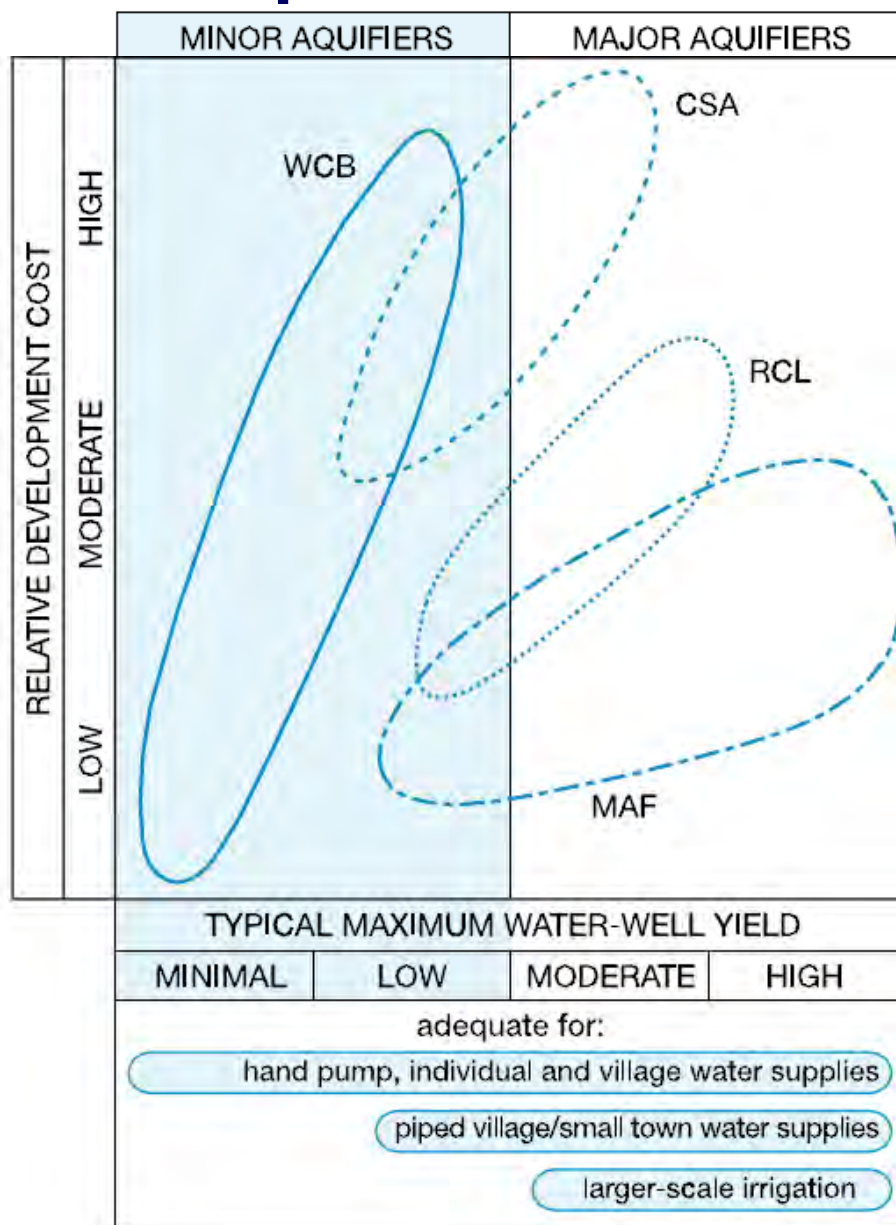
Variation of water well drought security with aquifer type and climatic regime

Typical ranges for aquifer type indicated:

- WCB: Weathered Crystalline Basement
- - - CSA: Consolidated Sedimentary Aquifers
- ..... RCL: Recent Coastal Limestones
- . - . MAF: Major Alluvial Formations



# Data Interpretation – Sustainability



Variation of water well yield predictability with aquifer type and climatic regime

Typical ranges for aquifer type indicated:

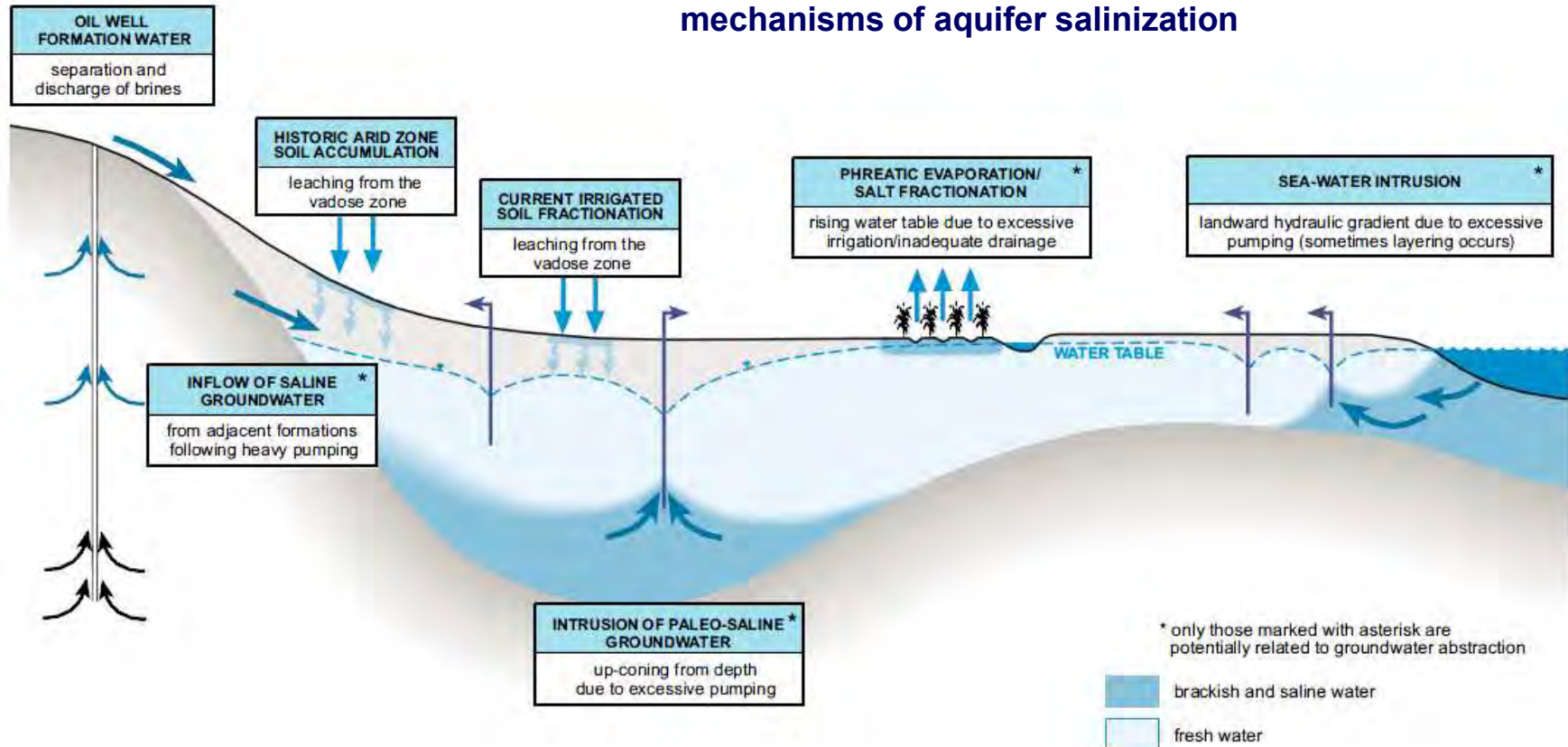
- WCB: Weathered Crystalline Basement
- - - CSA: Consolidated Sedimentary Aquifers
- ..... RCL: Recent Coastal Limestones
- . - MAF: Major Alluvial Formations

# Key Questions to Address in the Report

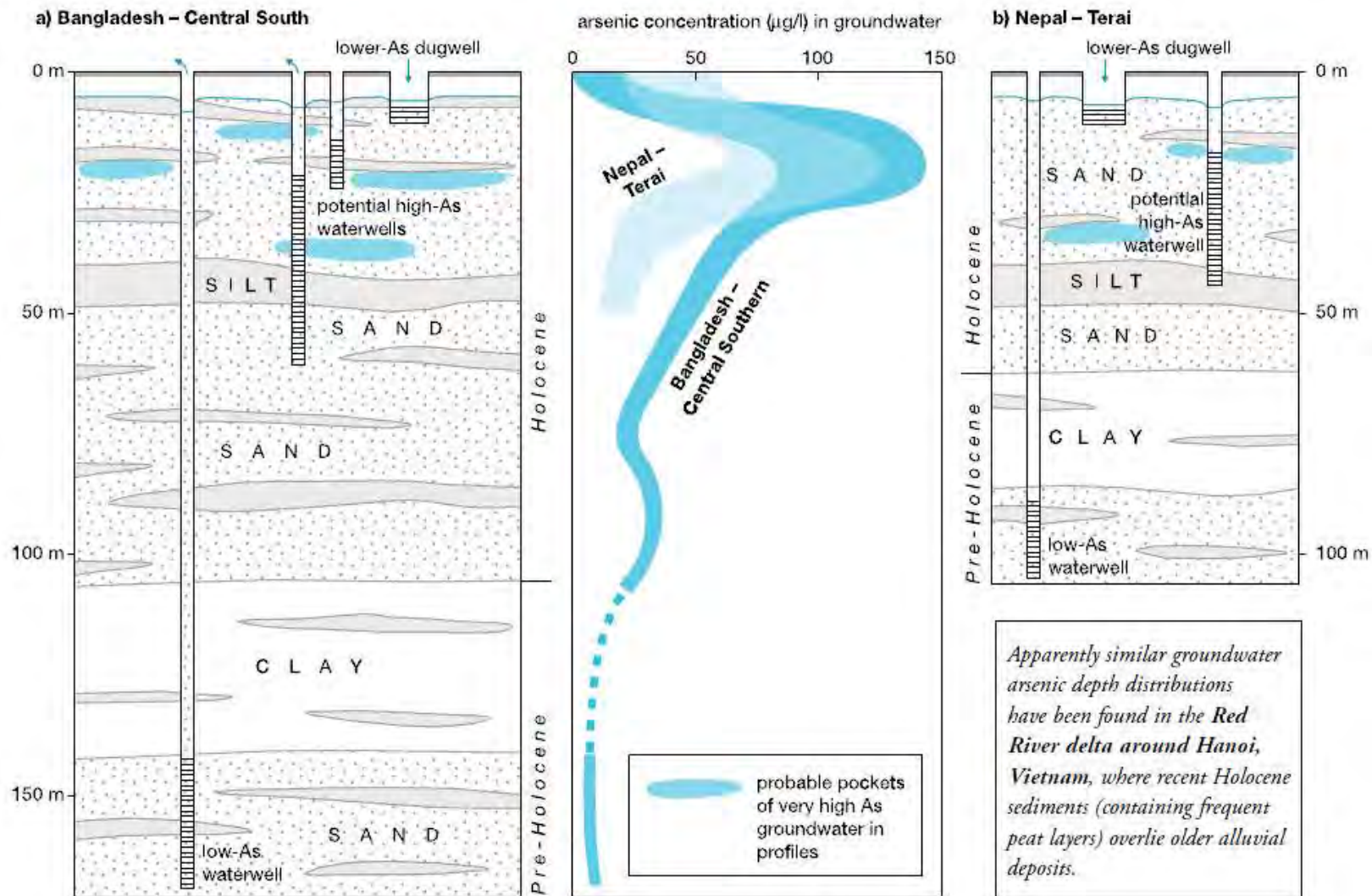
- Are there any natural or anthropogenic (human) sources of pollution within the well's capture zone?
- Are there any lower quality groundwater zones which may end up in the well in the long term?

# Sources of Groundwater Salinity

The possible origins of groundwater salinity and mechanisms of aquifer salinization



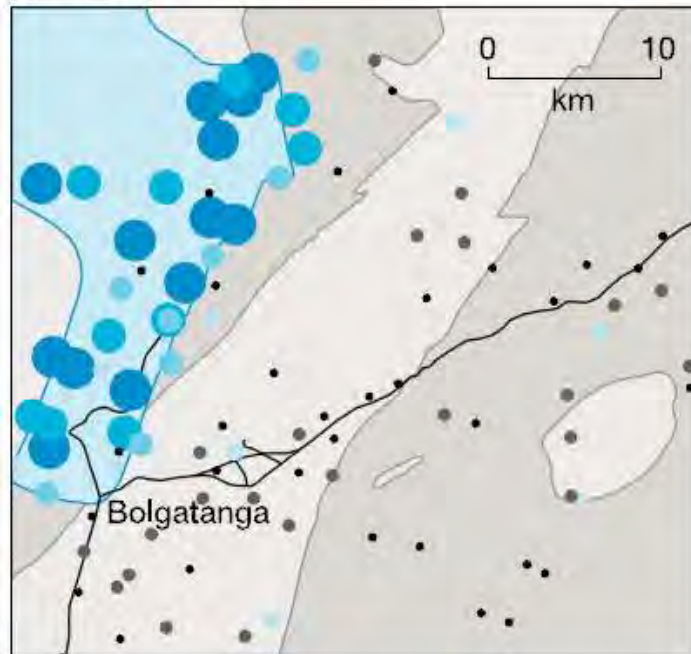
# Groundwater Quality Issues – Arsenic





# Groundwater Quality Issues – Fluoride

a) Ghana



F concentrations in shallow water wells (mg/l):

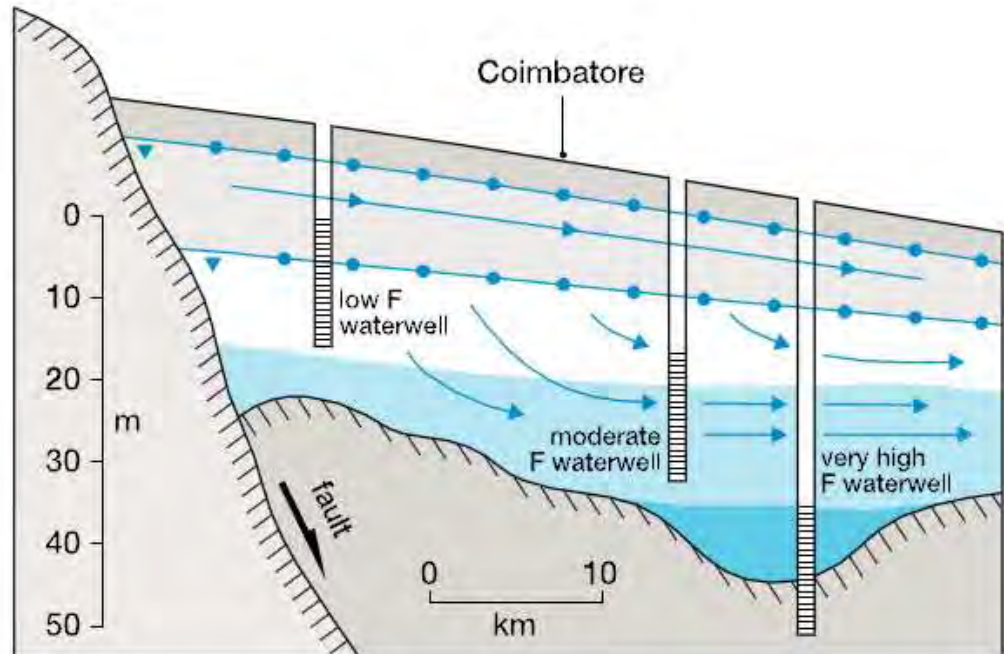
- < 0.4
- 0.4 – 0.6
- 0.6 – 1.0
- 1.0 – 2.0
- 2.0 – 3.0
- > 3.0

granite

igneous and metamorphic complex

greenstone, schist and quartzite

b) India



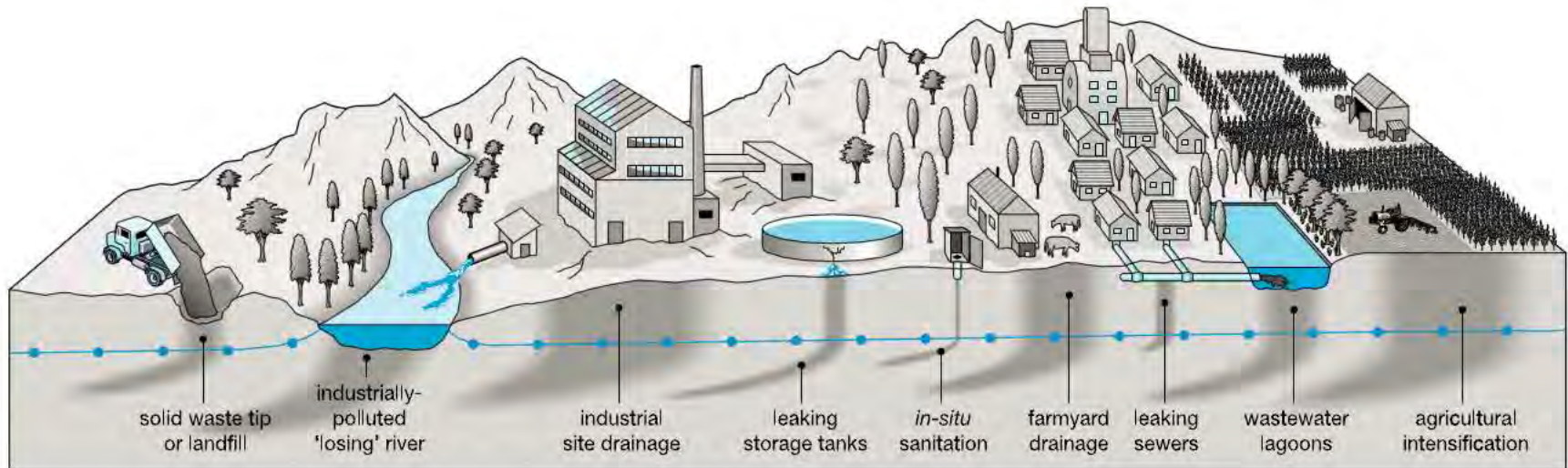
F concentrations in groundwater (mg/l):

- < 1.0
- 1.0 – 2.0
- 2.0 – 10.0

top of unweathered granite gneiss bedrock

# Groundwater Quality Issues – Land Use

Land-use activities commonly generating a groundwater pollution threat



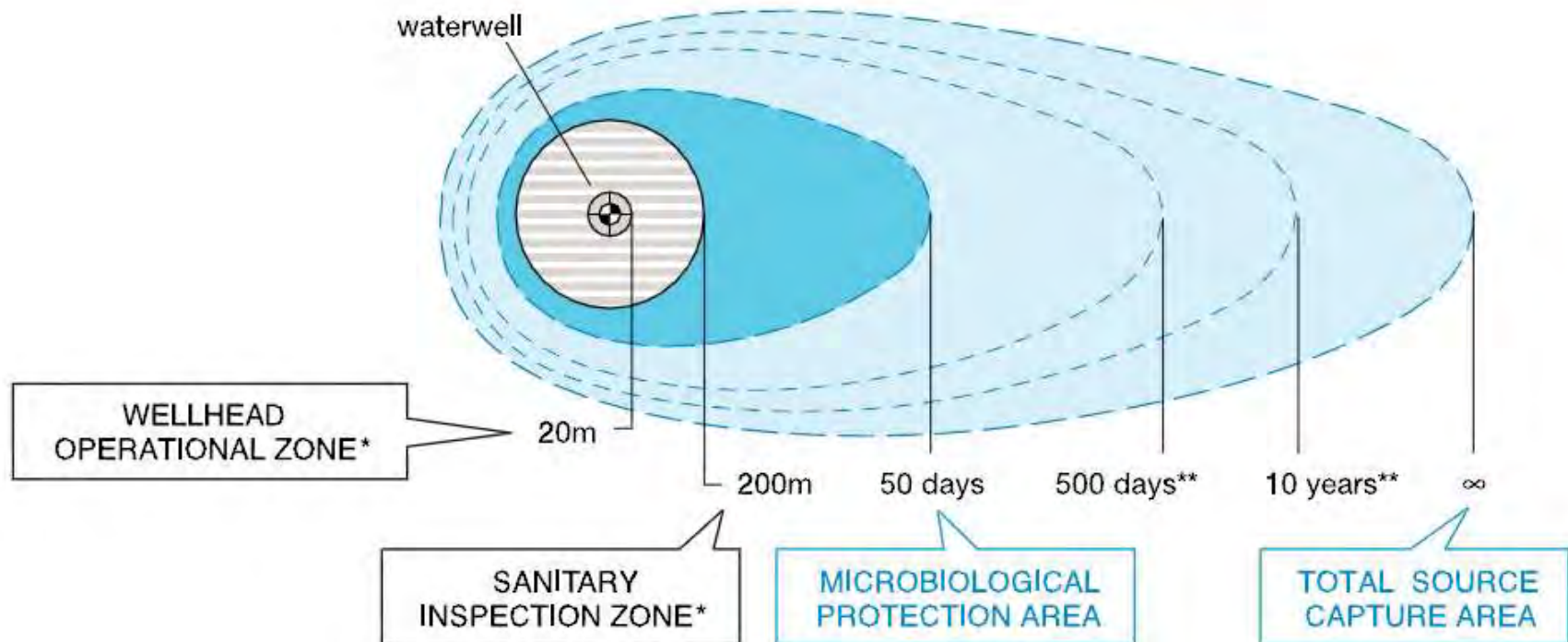


# Typical Groundwater Pollution Sources

| POLLUTION SOURCE                    | TYPE OF CONTAMINANT  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Agricultural Activity               | nitrates; ammonium; pesticides; fecal organisms  |
| <i>In-situ</i> Sanitation           | nitrates; fecal organisms; trace synthetic hydrocarbons  |
| Gasoline Filling Stations & Garages | benzene; other aromatic hydrocarbons; phenols; some halogenated hydrocarbons                           |
| Solid Waste Disposal                | ammonium; salinity; some halogenated hydrocarbons; heavy metals  |
| Metal Industries                    | trichloroethylene; tetrachloroethylene; other halogenated hydrocarbons; heavy metals; phenols; cyanide |
| Painting and Enamel Works           | alkylbenzene; tetrachloroethylene; other halogenated hydrocarbons; metals; some aromatic hydrocarbons  |
| Timber Industry                     | pentachlorophenol; some aromatic hydrocarbons  |
| Dry Cleaning                        | trichloroethylene; tetrachloroethylene   |
| Pesticide Manufacture               | various halogenated hydrocarbons; phenols; arsenic   |
| Sewage Sludge Disposal              | nitrates; various halogenated hydrocarbons; lead; zinc   |
| Leather Tanneries                   | chromium; various halogenated hydrocarbons; phenols  |
| Oil and Gas Exploration/Extraction  | salinity (sodium chloride); aromatic hydrocarbons  |
| Metalliferous and Coal Mining       | acidity; various heavy metals; iron; sulphates   |

# Water Well Protection Zones

Idealized scheme of surface sanitary zones and groundwater flow perimeters for the protection of a water well in an unconfined aquifer

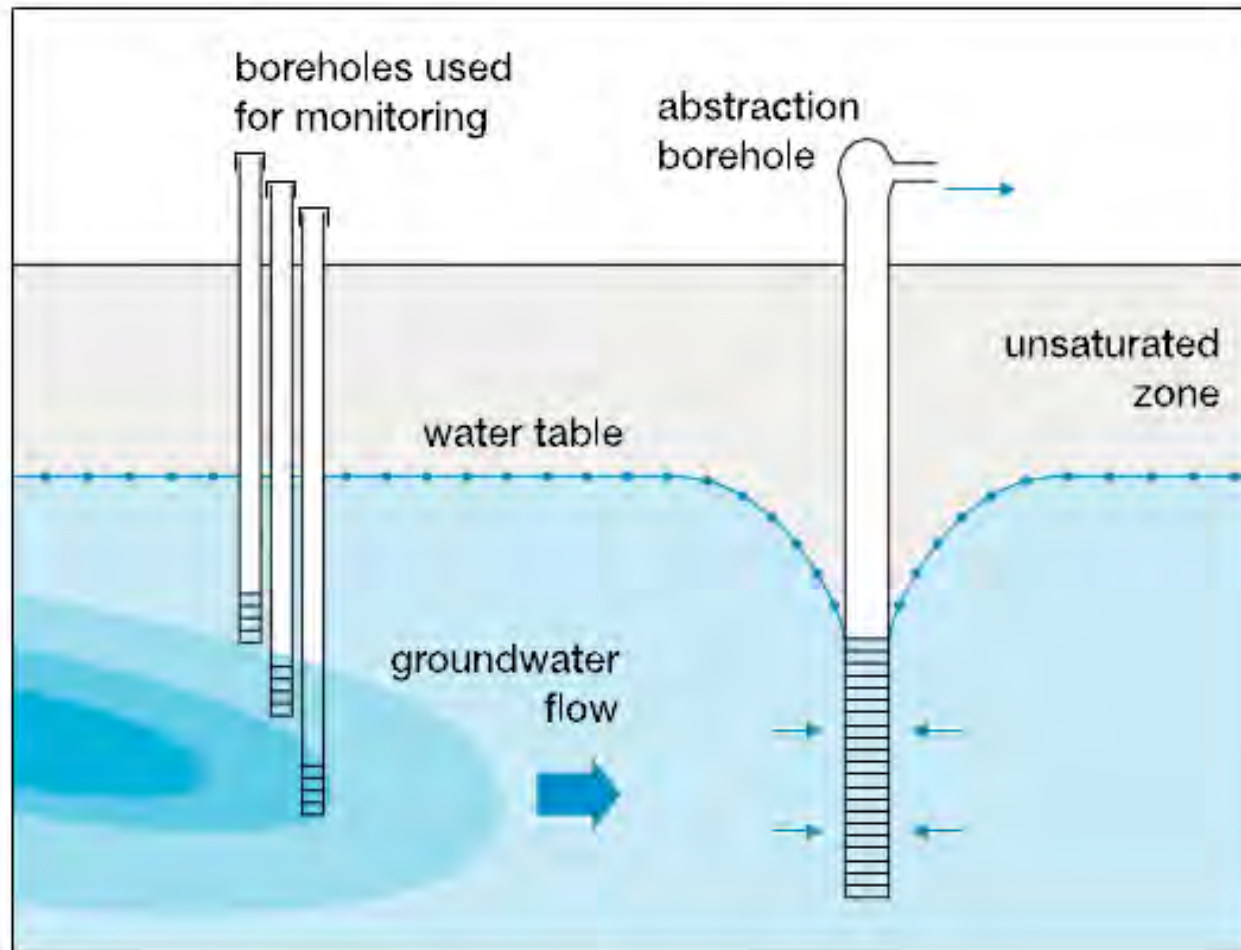


\* empirical fixed radius area

\*\* intermediate flow-time perimeters sometimes used



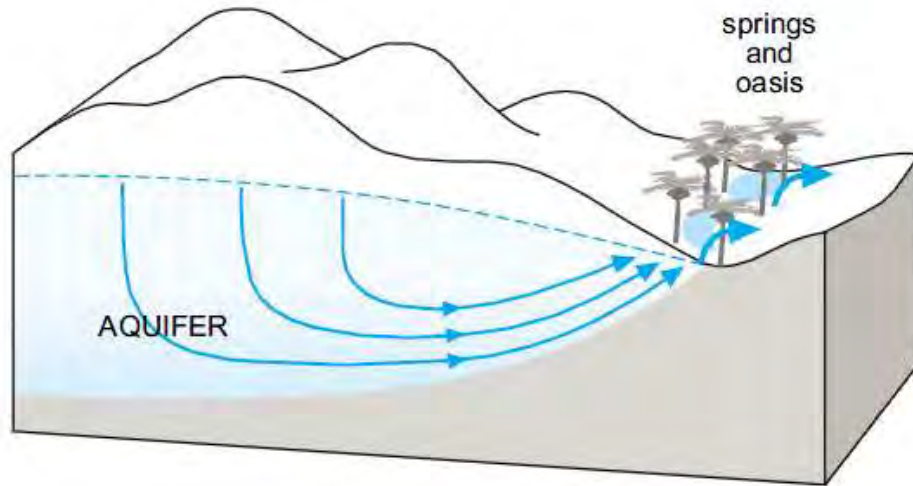
# Defensive Groundwater Pollution Detection Monitoring



# Key Questions to Address in the Report

- Does the well have any potential impact on groundwater-related ecosystems?

# Groundwater-related ecosystem

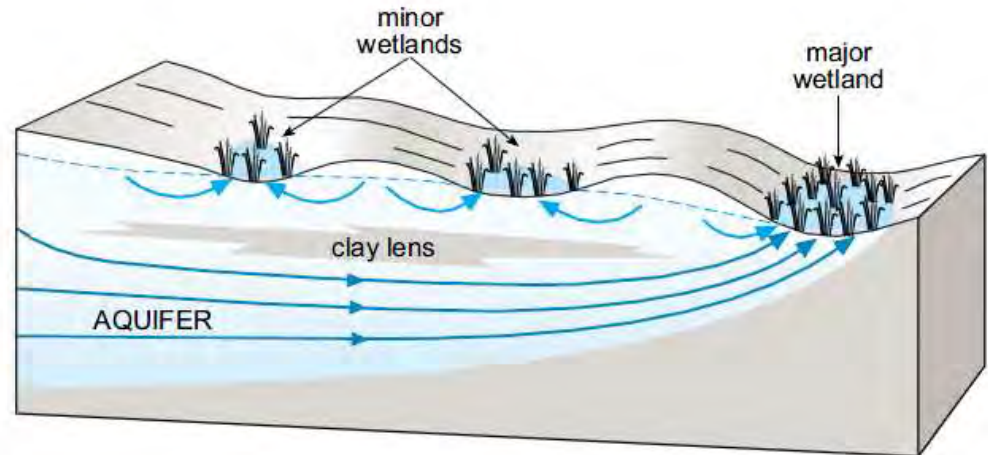


## (A) WETLAND ECOSYSTEM IN ARID REGION

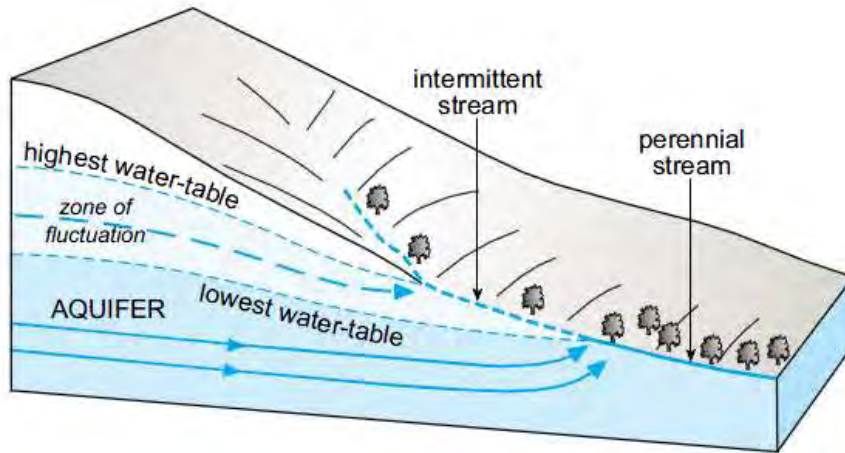
dependent upon deep groundwater flow system, sometimes with only limited contemporary replenishment and fossil aquifer flow

## (B) WETLAND ECOSYSTEM IN HUMID REGION

individual ecosystems can be dependent upon (or using) groundwater from different depths in a multi-layered aquifer flow system

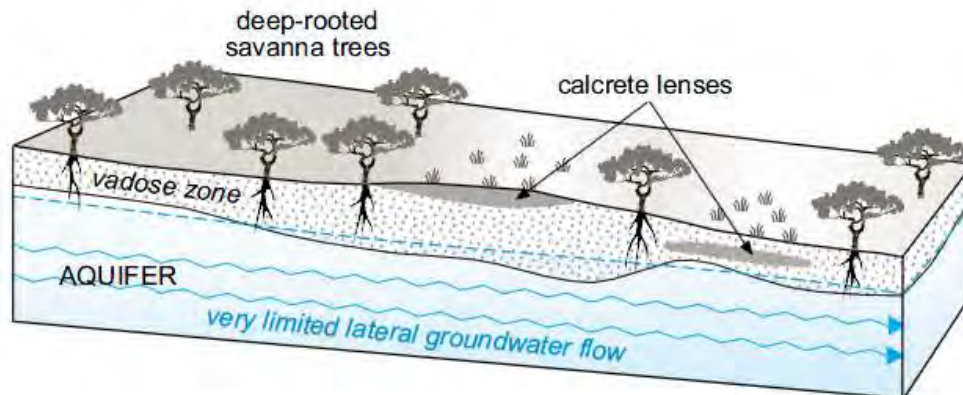


# Groundwater-related ecosystem



## (C) AQUATIC STREAM-BED ECOSYSTEM IN HUMID REGION

variable ecosystem along upper reaches of river system in part fed by perennial groundwater discharge and in part by intermittent groundwater flow



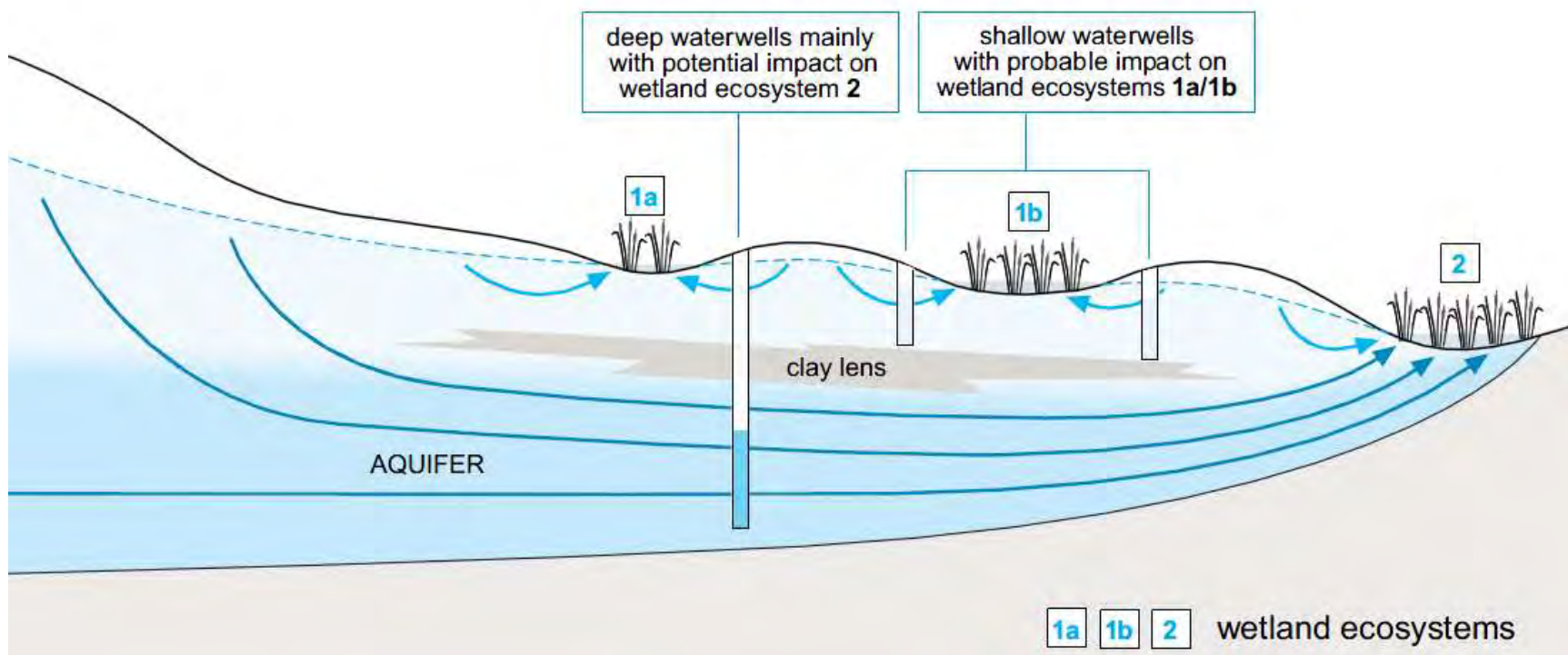
## (E) TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEM IN ARID REGION

savanna ecosystem dependent upon exceptionally deep rooted trees and bushes which tap water table or its capillary fringe directly (distribution limited by thickness and degree of consolidation of sediments in the vadose zone)



# Groundwater-related ecosystem

Potential interference of groundwater pumping from a multi-layered aquifer with different types of associated wetland habitat



**Visit the Hydrogeology Toolbox**  
**[www.geosearch.co.uk](http://www.geosearch.co.uk)**

Water

## Geophysics

## Experience

## Resources

Links Cor

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**Thank you  
for your attention!**