GROUND WATER RESOURCES

Mahaska County

Open File Report 80-62 WRD

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GROUND-WATER RESOURCES OF MAHASKA COUNTY

Introduction

One-hundred percent of the residents of Mahaska County rely on ground water as the source of their drinking water. It is estimated that the use of ground water in the county currently approaches 1.2 billion gallons per year. For comparison, this amount would provide each resident with 143 gallons of water a day during the year. Actually, few if any households use this much water, and the rather large annual per capita use reflects the greater water requirements of the county's industries, agribusinesses, and municipalities.

The users of ground water in the county draw their supplies from several different geologic sources. Several factors must be considered in determining the availability of ground water and the adequacy of a supply source:

distribution - having water where it is needed,

accessibility - affects the costs for drilling wells and pumping water,

yield - relates to the magnitude of the supply that can be sustained,

quality - determines for what purposes the water can be used.

In terms of these factors, there are few locations in Mahaska County where the availability of ground water is not limited to some degree. The most common limitation is poor water quality, that is, highly mineralized ground water. Secondary limitations are generally related to poor distribution, small yields from some sources, and poor accessibility due to the great depth to more adequte sources.

Occurrence of Ground Water in Mahaska County

The occurrence of ground water is influenced by geology -- the position and thickness of the rock units, their ability to store and transmit water, and their physical and chemical make-up. Geologic units that store and transmit water and yield appreciable amounts to wells are called aquifers. The best aquifers are usually composed of unconsolidated sand and gravel, porous sandstone, and porous or fractured limestone and dolostone. Other units with materials such as clay and silt, shale, siltstone, and mudstone yield little or no water to wells. These impermeable units are called aquicludes or aquitards and commonly seaprate one aquifer unit from another.

In Mahaska County there are four principal aquifers from which users obtain water supplies. The loose, unconsolidated materails near the land surface comprise the surficial aquifer. Below this there are three major rock aquifers -- the Mississippian, the Devonian, and the Cambro-Ordovician aquifers. Figure 1 shows the geologic relation of these beneath the county. Each of the aquifers has its own set of geologic, hydrologic, and water quality characteristics which determine the amount and potability (suitability for drinking) of water it will yield.

Surficial Aquifers

Unconsolidated deposits at the land surface are comprised of mixtures of clay, silt, sand, gravel, and assorted boulders. Water-yielding potential of the surficial deposits is greatest in units composed mostly of sand and/or gravel. Three types of surficial aquifers are used: the alluvial aquifer, the drift aquifer, and the buried channel aquifer.

The alluvial aquifer consists mainly of the sand and gravel transported and deposited by modern streams and makes up the floodplains and terraces in major valleys. Alluvial deposits are shallow, generally less than 50-60 feet and thus may be easily contaminated by the infiltration of surface water.

The drift aquifer is the thick layer of clay to boulder size material deposited over the bedrock by glacial ice which invaded the county at least twice in the last two million years. The composition of the glacial drift varies considerably and in many places does not yield much water. There are, however, lenses or beds of sand and gravel within the drift which are thick and widespread enough to serve as dependable water sources. These lenses are difficult to locate because they are irregular in shape and buried within the drift deposits. Usually one or two sand layers can be found in most places that will yield minimum water supplies for domestic wells.

The buried channel aquifer consists of stream alluvium of partially filled valleys that existed before the glacial period. The valleys were overridden by the glaciers and are now buried under glacial and recent alluvial deposits.

The distribution, yields, and water quality characteristics for the surfical aquifers are summarized in Figures 2, 9, and 13. An indication of accessibility can be obtained by comparing the elevations of the top (the land surface) and the bottom (the bedrock surface) of the surficial deposits from Figures 4 and 5. The thickness of the glacial drift and the depth of the buried channels are determined by subtracting the elevations at selected locations.

Rock Aquifers

Below the surficial materials is a thick sequence of layered rocks formed from deposits of rivers and shallow seas that have covered the state within the last 600 million years. The geologic map (Figure 3) shows the geologic units which form the top of this rock sequence. These rocks are Pennsylvanian and Mississippian in age and are shales and limestone. Although the Pennsylvanian rocks usually act as an aquiclude, there are locally sandstone layers (particularly in the western part of the county around Leighton) which supply small yields to domestic wells. The Pennsylvanian rocks are patchy but underlie a majority of the western half of the county. They are thickest in the western and southwestern parts of the county reaching thicknesses up to 180 feet.

Underlying the Pennsylvanian aquiclude is a sequence of older rocks, portions of which form the three major rock aquifers in Mahaska County. This sequence and its water-bearing characteristics are shown in Table 1.

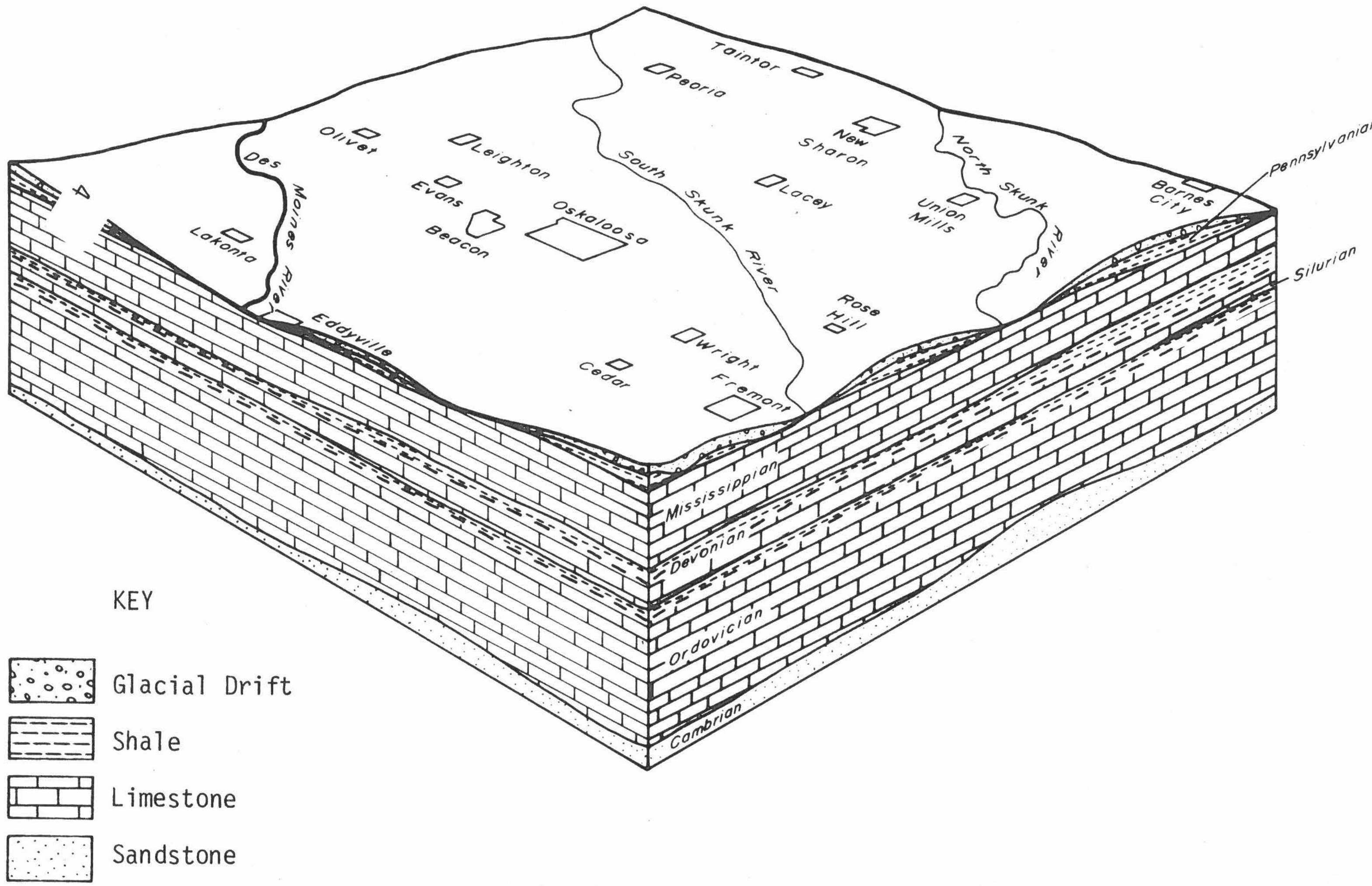


Figure 1

BLOCK DIAGRAM SHOWING THE GEOLOGY OF MAHASKA COUNTY

Examples of the rock units encountered in several wells at various locations in Mahaska County are indexed and illustrated in Figures 7 and 8. The geologic unit that supplies ground water and the rate of yield are shown for each well.

The accessibility of ground water in rock aquifers depends on the depth to the aquifer. The deepter a well must be, the greater the cost for well construction and pumping. The depths to and thicknesses of units at specific sites will vary somewhat because of irregularities in the elevation of the land surface and in the elevation of the tops of the underlying rock units. Estimates of depths and thicknesses can be made by comparing Figure 4 with the maps of aquifer elevations in Figures 10, 11 and 12. The range in depth below land surface to the top of the county's principal bedrock aquifers is given for each township in Figure 6.

A second factor which affects ground water accessibility is the level to which the water will rise in a well (the static water level). Throughout the county water in the rock aquifers is under artesian pressure and rises in the well once the aquifer is penetrated. This can reduce the cost of pumping. Average static water levels for Mahaska County wells are shown in Figures 10, 11 and 12.

Average rates of yield and water quality characteristics for each of the aquifers are summarized in the maps in Figures 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Table 1

GEOLOGIC AND HYDROGEOLOGIC UNITS IN MAHASKA COUNTY

Age	Rock Unit	Description	Thickness Range	Hydrogeologic Unit	Water-Bearing Characteristics
	Alluvium	Sand, gravel, silt and clay			Fair to large yields (25 to 100 gpm)
Quaternary	Glacial drift (undifferentiated)	Predominantly till containing scattered irregular bodies of sand and gravel	0-350 (feet)	Surficial aquifer	Low yields (less than 10 gpm)
	Buried channel deposits	Sand, gravel, silt and clay			Small to large yields
Pennsylvanian	Des Moines Series	Shale, sandstones; mostly thin and patchy	0-180	Aquiclude	Low yields only from limestone and sandstone
	Meramec Series	Sandy limestone			
Mississippian	Osage Series	Limestone and dolostone cherty; shale	250-450	Mississippian aquifer	Fair to low yields
	Kinderhook Series	Limestone, oolitic, and dolostone, cherty, also siltstone			
	Maple Mill Shale Sheffield Formation Lime Creek Formation	Shale; limestone in lower part	100-225	Devonian aquiclude	Does not yield water
Devonian	Cedar Valley Limestone Wapsipinicon Formation	Limestone and dolostone contains evaporites (gypsum) in southern half of Iowa	200-390	Devonian aquifer	Fair to low yields
Silurian	Undifferentiated	Dolostone	0-25	Silurian aquifer	Low yields
	Maquoketa Formation	Shale and dolostone		Maquoketa aquiclude	Does not yield water
	Galena Formation	Dolostone and chert		Minor aquifer	Low yields
Ordovician	Decorah Formation-Platteville Formation	Limestone, dolostone and thin shale includes sandstone in SE Iowa	950-1000	Aquiclude	Does not yield water
	St. Peter Sandstone	Sandstone		Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer	Fair yields
	Prairie du Chien Formation	Dolostone, sandy and cherty			High yields (200 to over 500 gpm)
	Jordan Sandstone	Sandstone	40-60		
Cambrian	St. Lawrence Formation	Dolostone		Aquitard	Low yields
	Franconia Sandstone	Sandstone and shale			
	Dresbach Group	Sandstone		Dresbach aquifer*	High to low yields
Precambrian	Undifferentiated	Coarse sandstones: crystalline rocks		Base of ground-water reservoir	Not known to yield water

*Not important in Mahaska County owing to highly mineralized water

Figure 2

SURFICIAL MATERIALS

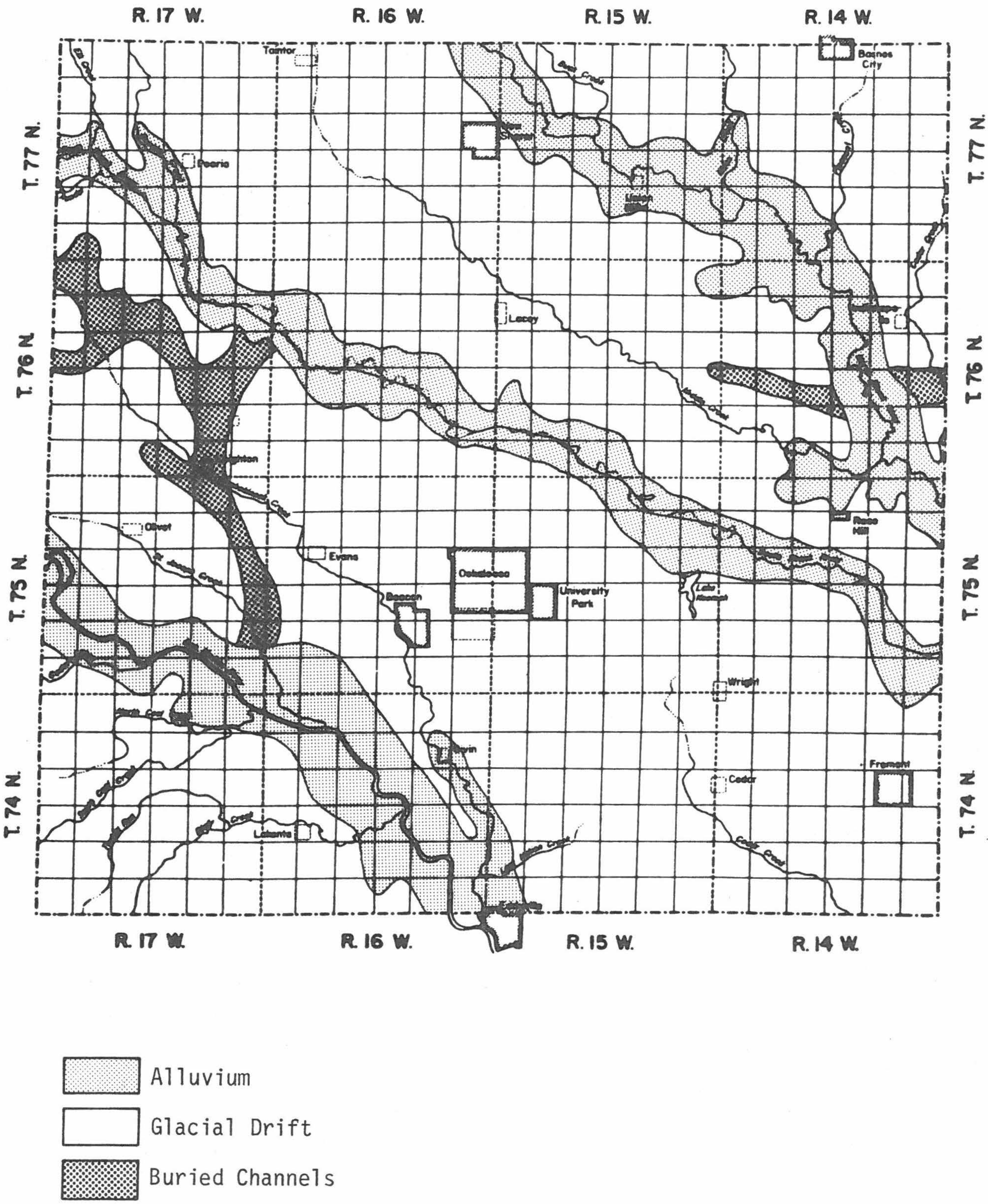


Figure 3

GEOLOGIC MAP

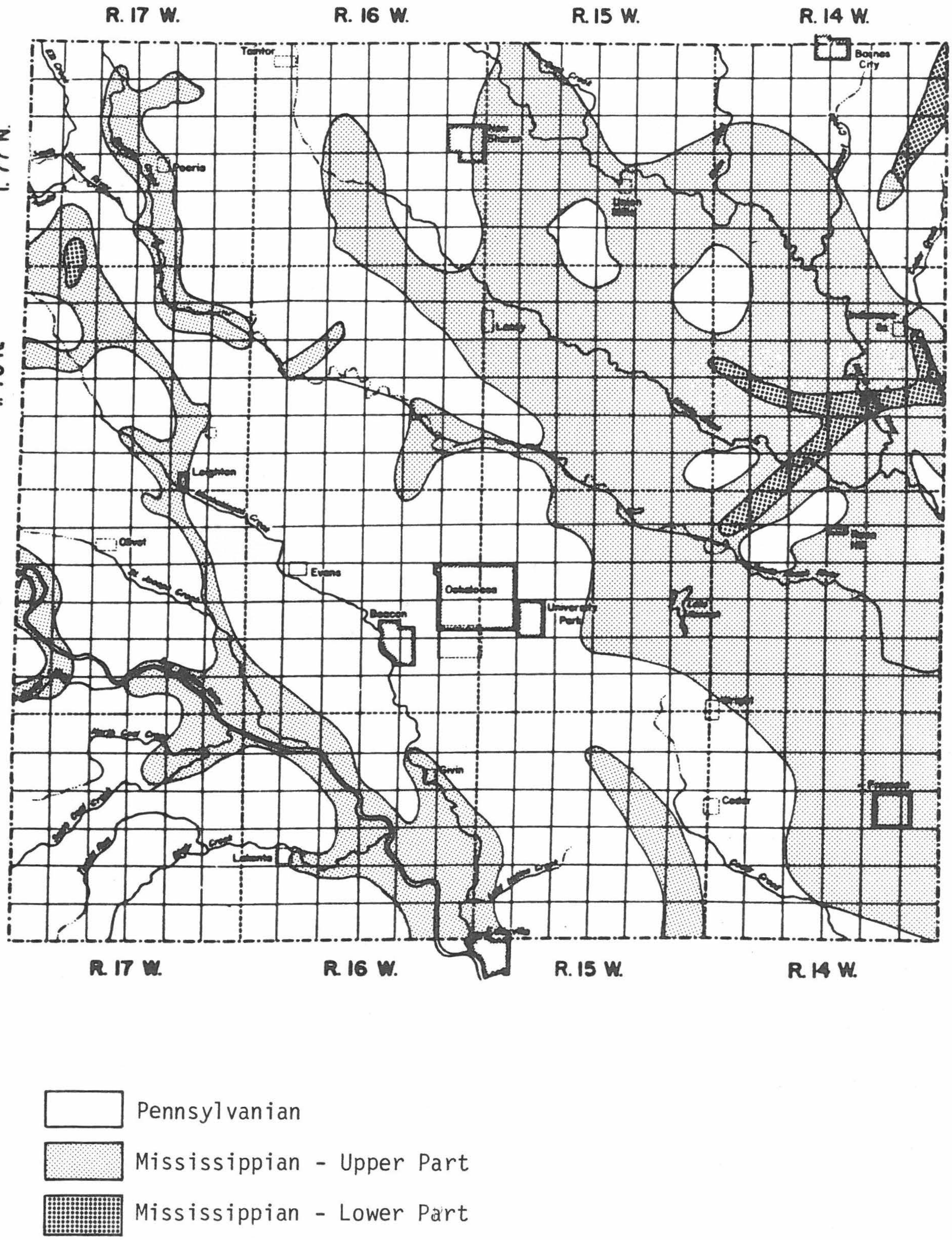


Figure 4

ELEVATION OF LAND SURFACE IN FEET ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL

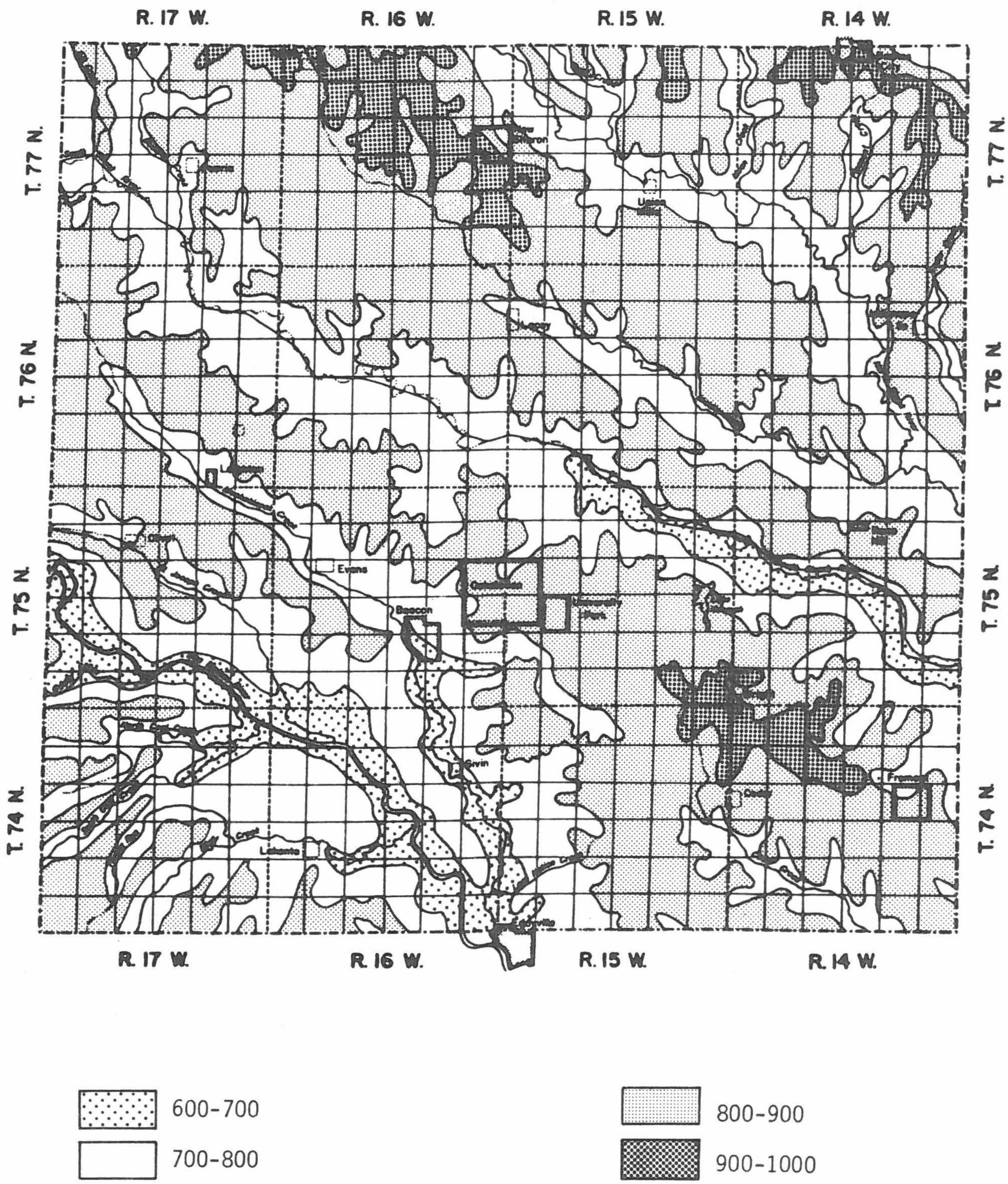


Figure 5

ELEVATION OF BEDROCK SURFACE IN FEET ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL

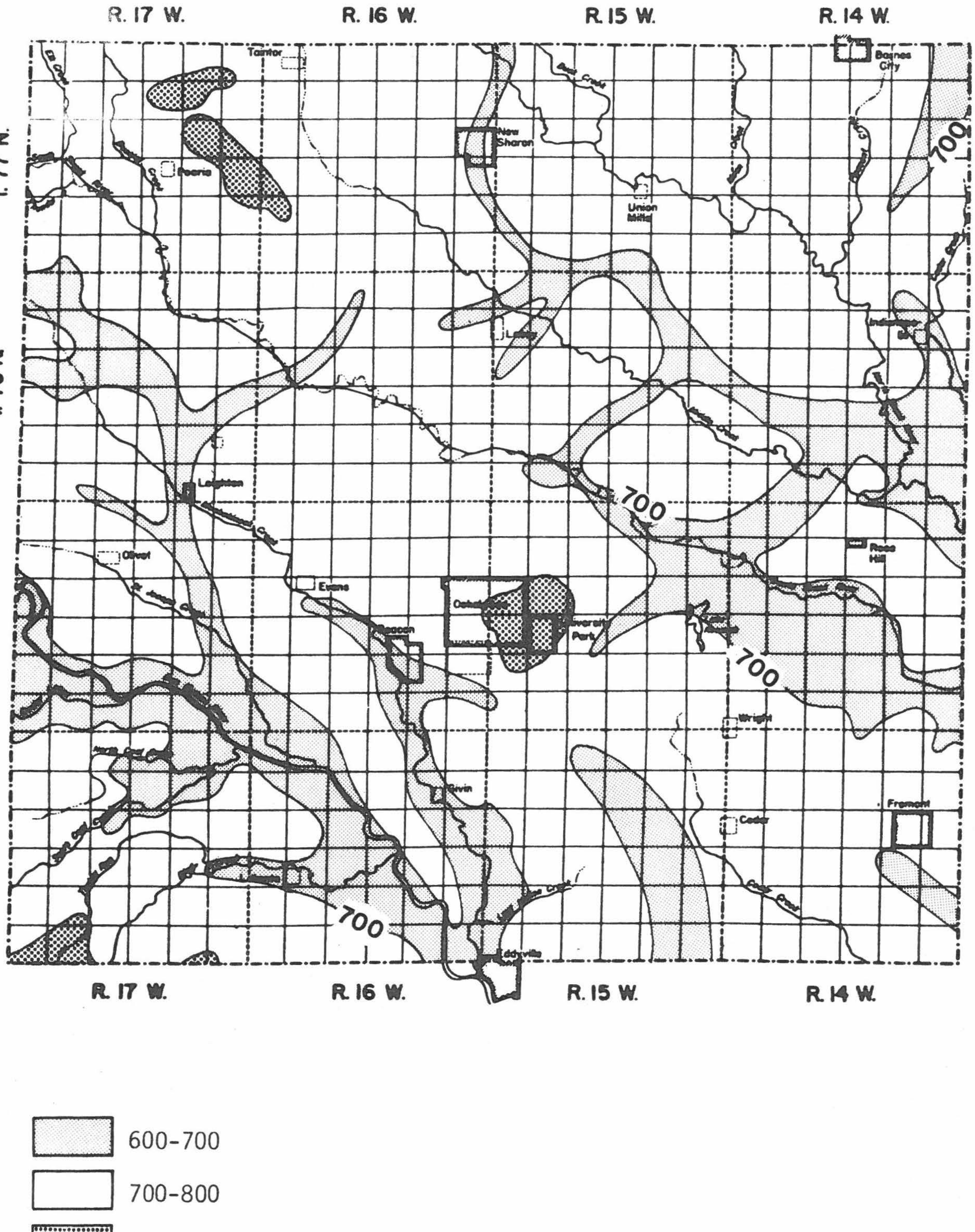


Figure 6

RANGE IN DEPTH TO MAHASKA COUNTY'S PRINCIPAL ROCK AQUIFERS

	R. 17 W.	R. 16 W.	R. 15 W.	R. 14 W.	
T. 77 N.	BEDROCK 0-200 MISSISSIPPIAN 0-200 DEVONIAN 500-800 CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN 1900-2200	BEDROCK 100-200 MISSISSIPPIAN 100-200 DEVONIAN 600-800 CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN 1800-2200	BEDROCK 100-300 MISSISSIPPIAN 100-300 DEVONIAN 500-800 CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN 1800-2100	BEDROCK 0-300 MISSISSIPPIAN 50-300 DEVONIAN 500-800 CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN 1800-2100	T. 77 N.
T. 76 N.	BEDROCK 0-200 MISSISSIPPIAN 50-200 DEVONIAN 600-800 CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN 2000-2200	BEDROCK 50-200 MISSISSIPPIAN 50-200 DEVONIAN 600-800 CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN 2000-2200	BEDROCK 0-200 MISSISSIPPIAN 0-200 DEVONIAN 500-800 CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN 1800-2100	BEDROCK 100-200 MISSISSIPPIAN 100-200 DEVONIAN 500-800 CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN 1800-2100	T. 76 N.
T. 75 N.	BEDROCK 0-100 MISSISSIPPIAN 0-100 DEVONIAN 550-850 CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN 1900-2200	BEDROCK 0-100 MISSISSIPPIAN 0-100 DEVONIAN 550-850 CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN 1900-2200	BEDROCK 0-200 MISSISSIPPIAN 50-200 DEVONIAN 650-900 CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN 1800-2200	BEDROCK 0-200 MISSISSIPPIAN 0-200 DEVONIAN 500-800 CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN 1800-2200	T. 75 N.
T. 74 N.	BEDROCK 0-150 MISSISSIPPIAN 0-150 DEVONIAN 550-850 CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN 1900-2100	BEDROCK 0-100 MISSISSIPPIAN 0-150 DEVONIAN 550-850 CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN 1800-2100	BEDROCK 0-200 MISSISSIPPIAN 50-200 DEVONIAN 550-800 CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN 1800-2100	BEDROCK 100-200 MISSISSIPPIAN 50-200 DEVONIAN 650-900 CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN 1900-2200	T. 74 N.
	R. 17 W.	R. 16 W.	R. 15 W.	R. 14 W.	

Figure 7

INDEX MAP FOR TYPICAL WELLS IN MAHASKA COUNTY

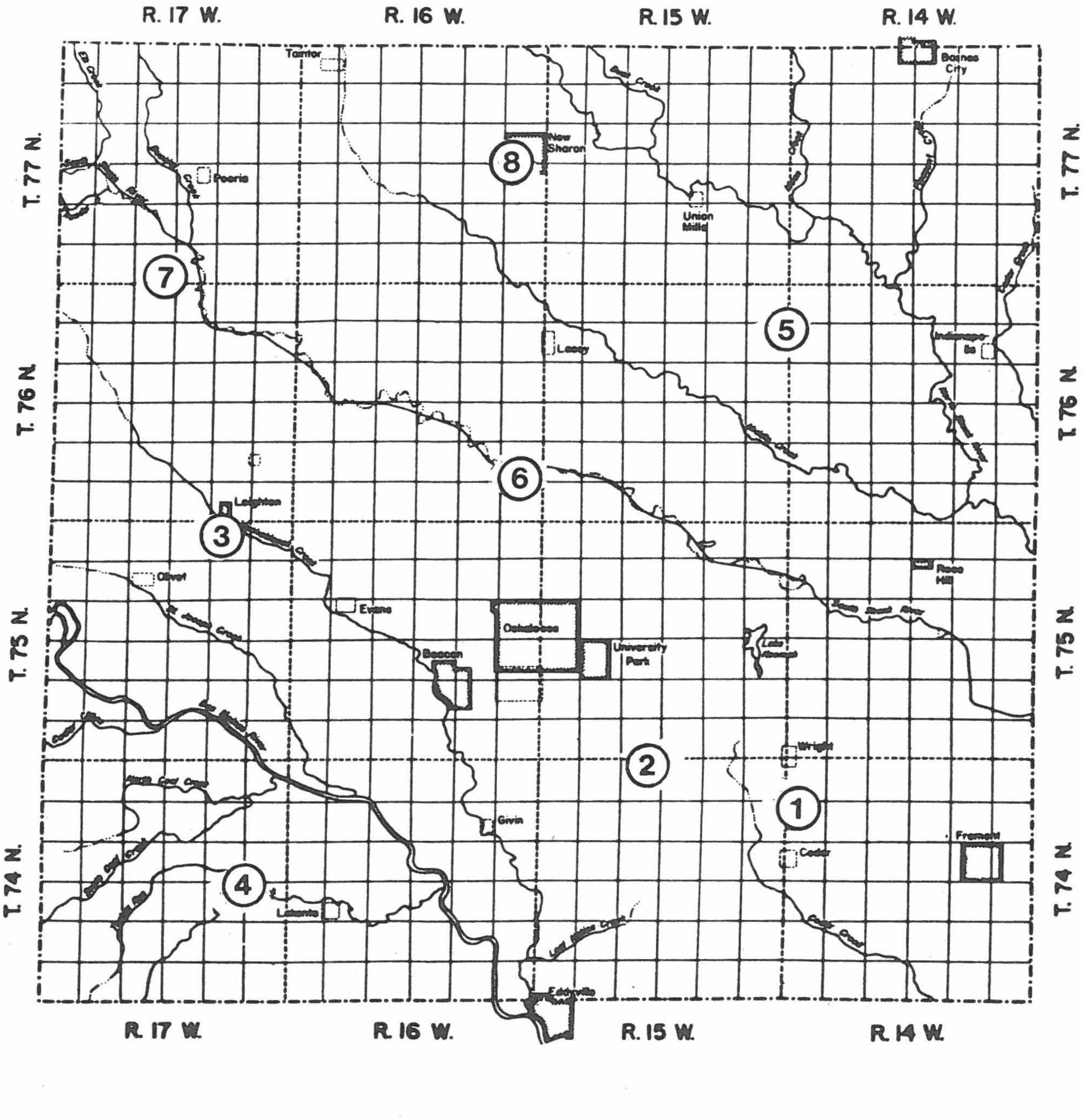


Figure 8

TYPICAL WELLS IN MAHASKA COUNTY

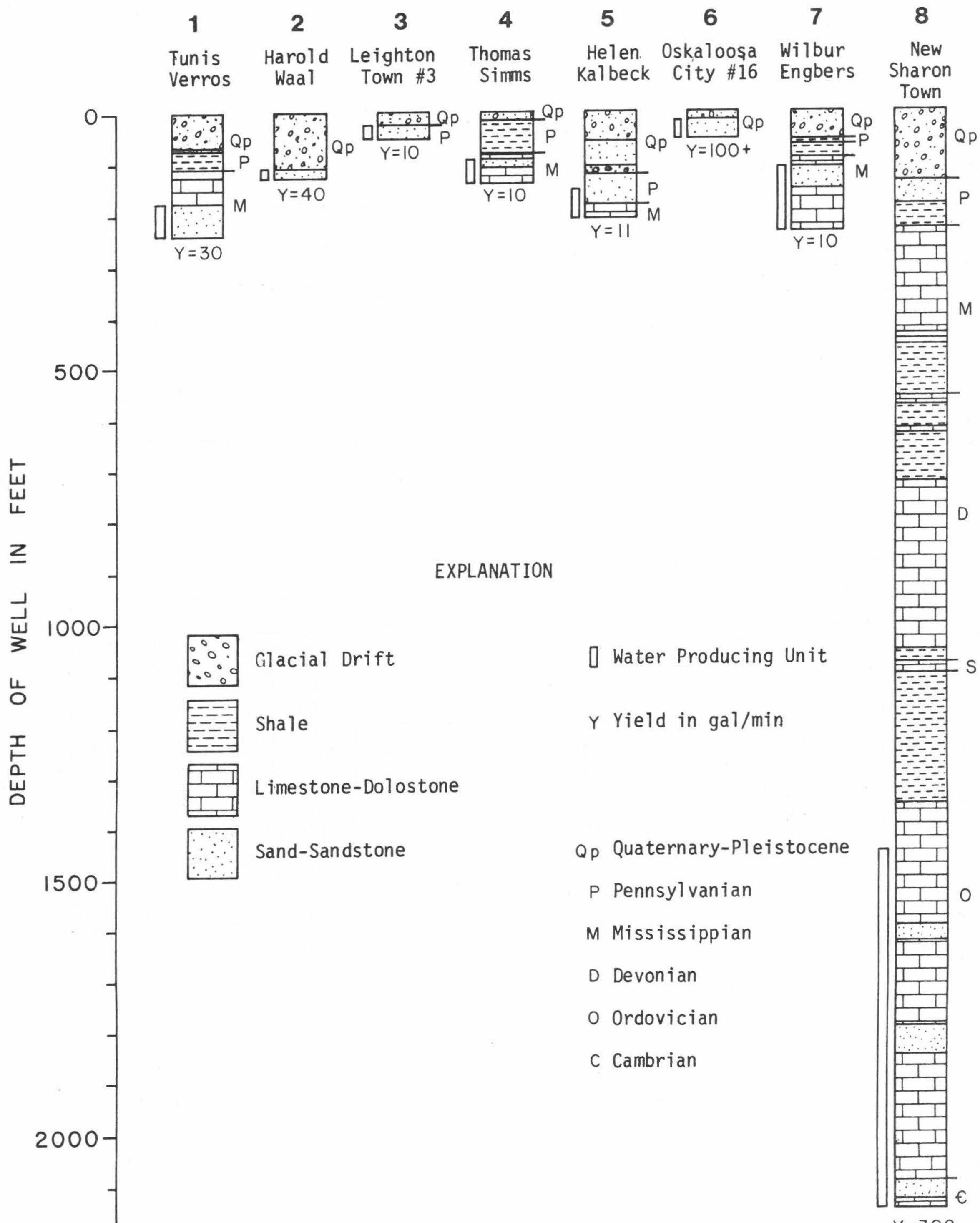
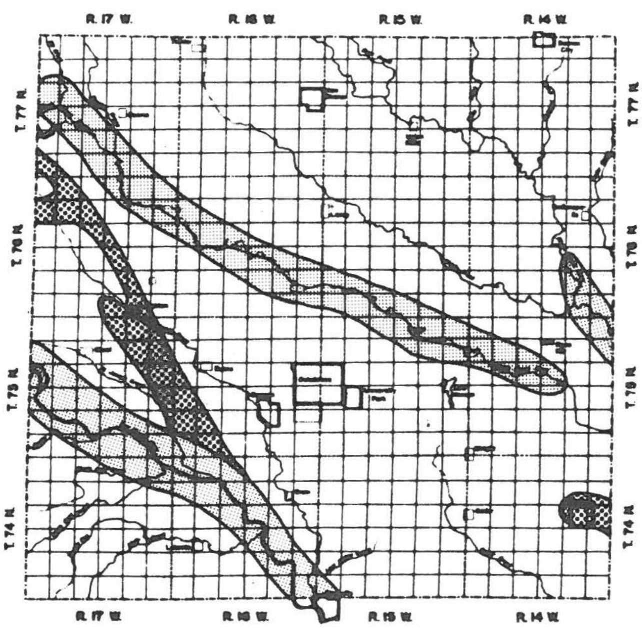


Figure 9
SURFICIAL AQUIFERS

Water Levels

Water levels in the surficial aquifers are difficult to analyze, water rises to different levels in wells drilled into alluvial, buried-channel, and drift aquifers. The water table in the drift aquifer generally slopes from high land areas toward the streams and, changes noticeably throughout the year. Levels in drift and buried-channel aquifers respond rapidly to recharge from precipitation. Water levels in the alluvial aquifer fluctuates somewhat in the same way as those in the drift and buried-channel aquifers; however, the main influence on the alluvial aquifer is the stage (level) of the associated streams. Water levels will be high during periods of high stream stage and low during the low-stage periods.

Water levels in the drift aquifers commonly are from 10 to 50 feet below the land surface, and 100 to 150 feet below the land surface. The water levels in alluvial wells are from 4 to 20 feet below the flood-plain surface and the depth to the water surface will be accordingly deeper in wells located on terrace surfaces.



Water yields to wells in gallons per minute

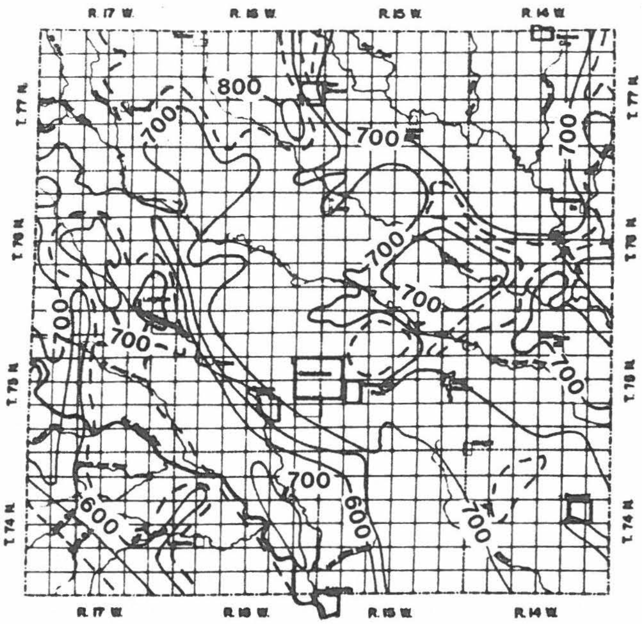
Below 20

20-100

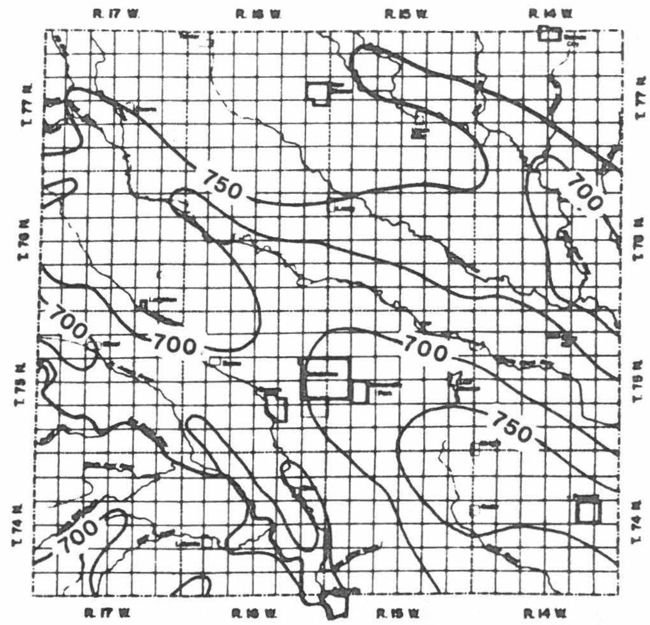
100-500

Figure 10

MISSISSIPPIAN AQUIFER

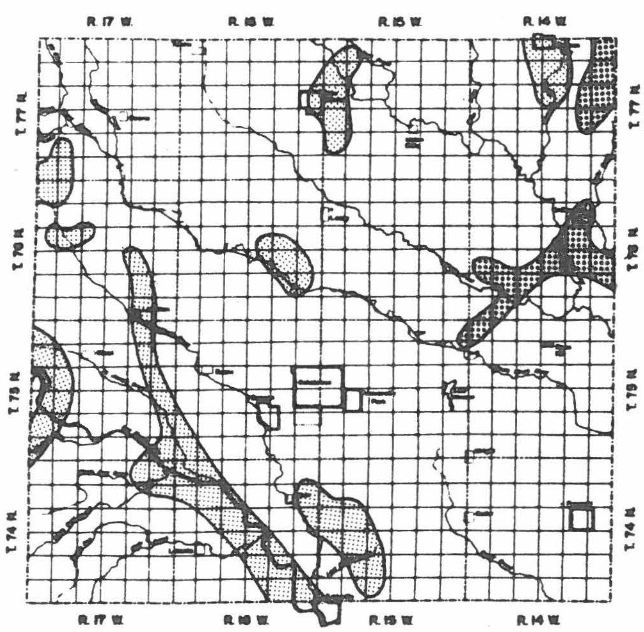


Elevation of Mississippian Aquifer in feet above mean sea level

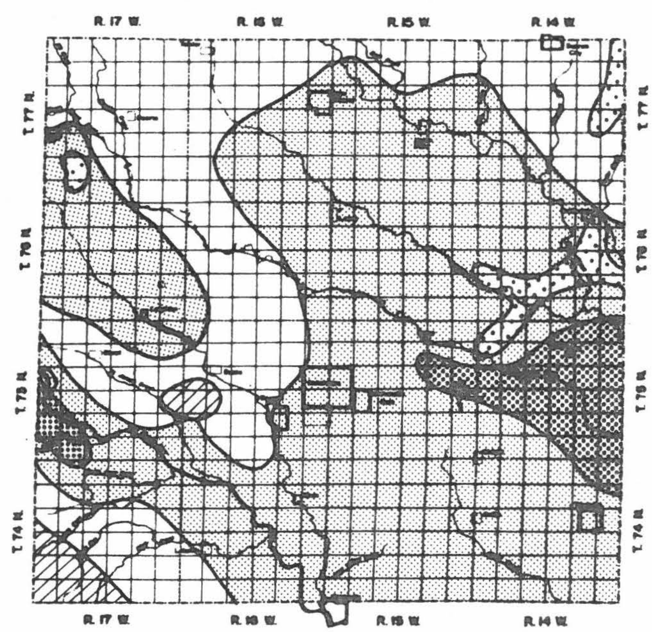


Water levels in wells in feet above mean sea level

Upper-Part



Water yields to wells in gallons per minute



Dissolved solids content in milli-grams

Below 20

20-50

Aquifer not present

Below 500

500-1000

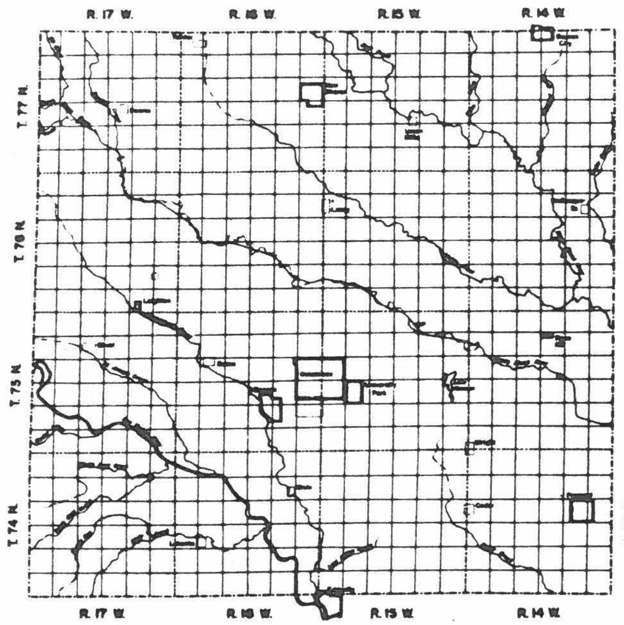
1000-2500

Aquifer not present

* Other water quality data in Figures 13 and 14

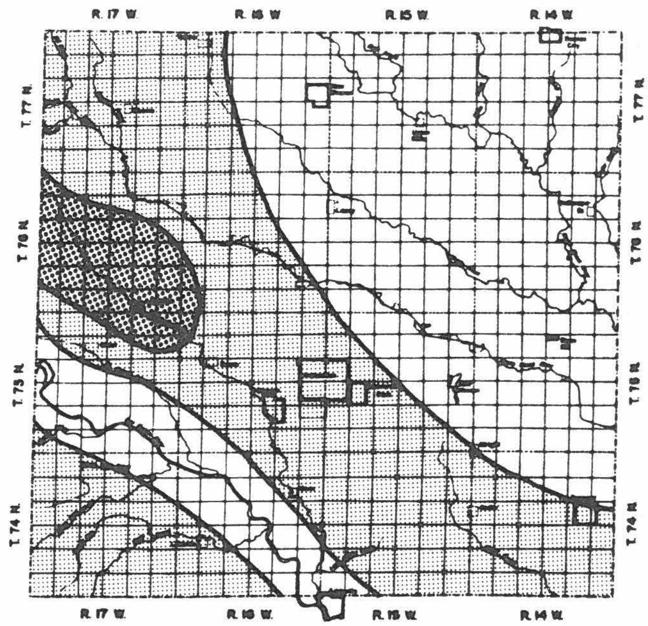
MISSISSIPPIAN AQUIFER

Lower Part



Water yields to wells in gallons per minute

Below 20



Dissolved solids content in milligrams per liter (mg/l) *

1000-2500

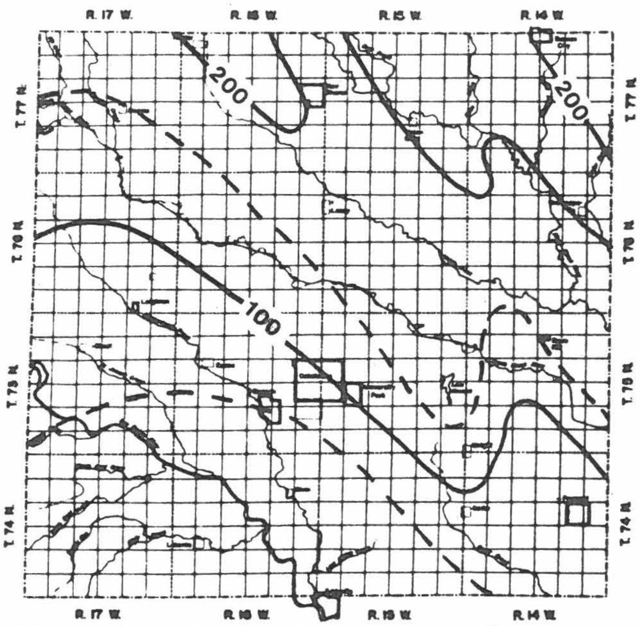
5000-7500

2500-5000

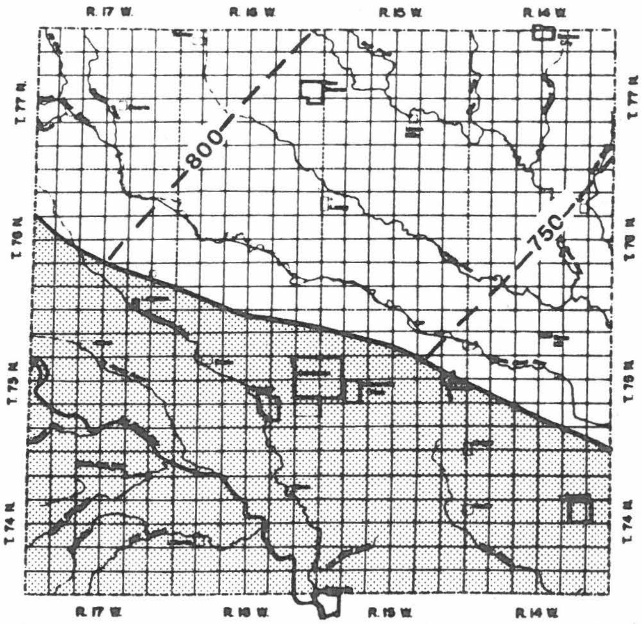
* Other water quality data in Figure 14

Figure 11

DEVONIAN AQUIFER



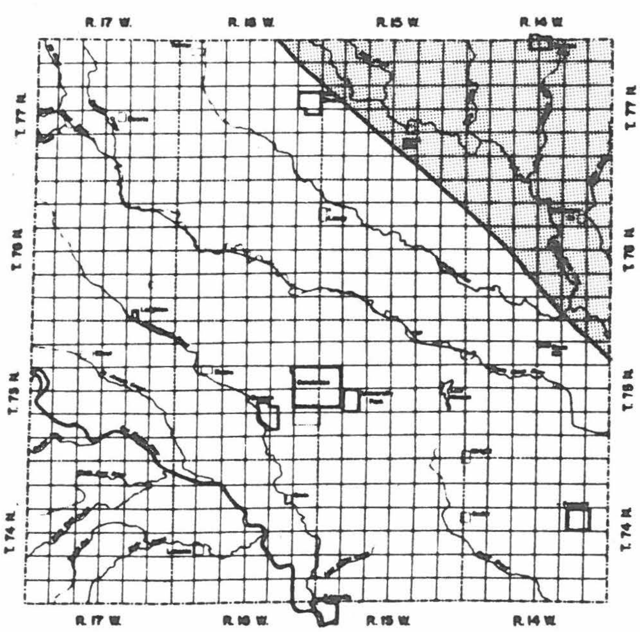
Elevation of the Devonian Aquifer in feet above mean sea level



Water levels in wells in feet above mean sea level

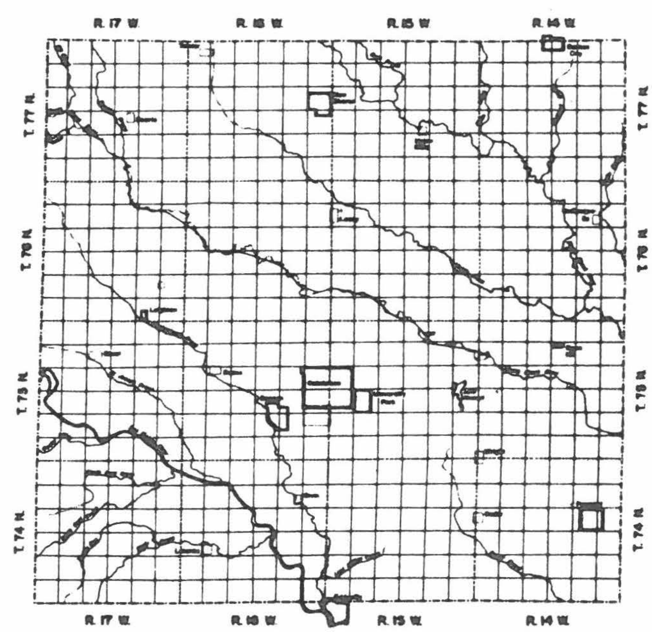
No Data

— — — Inferred Contour Line



Water yields to wells in gallons per minute

below 20 | No Data Available



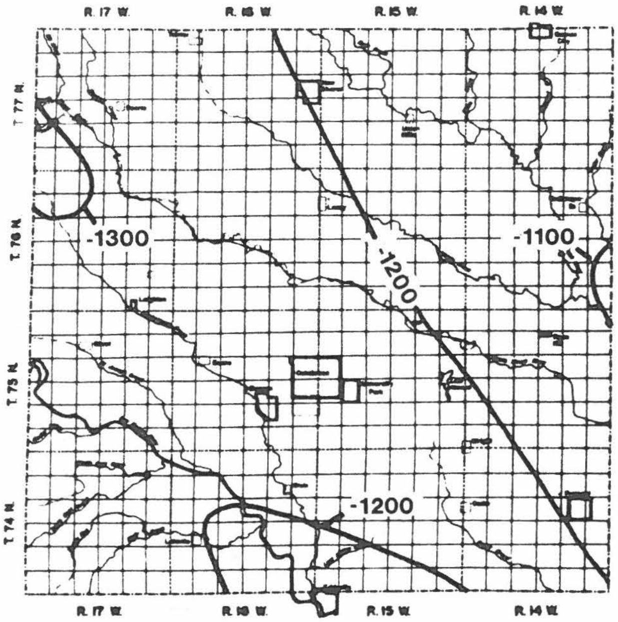
Dissolved solids content in milligrams per liter (mg/l)*

No Data Available

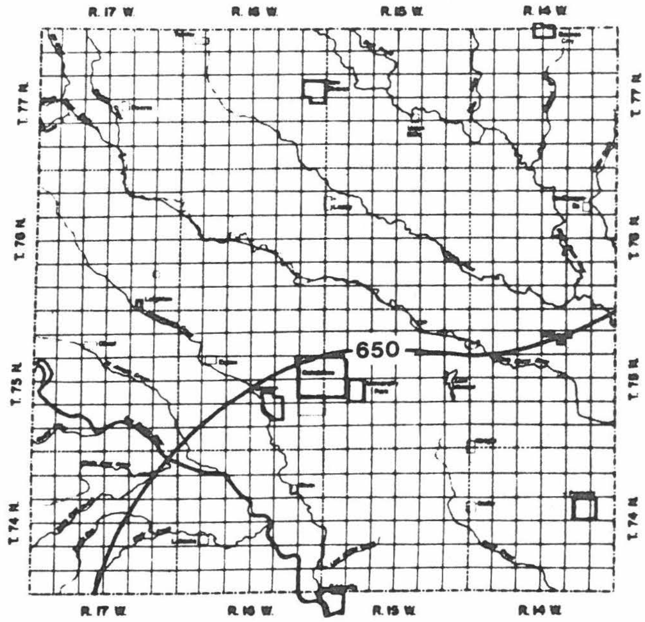
* Other water quality data in Figure 15

Figure 12

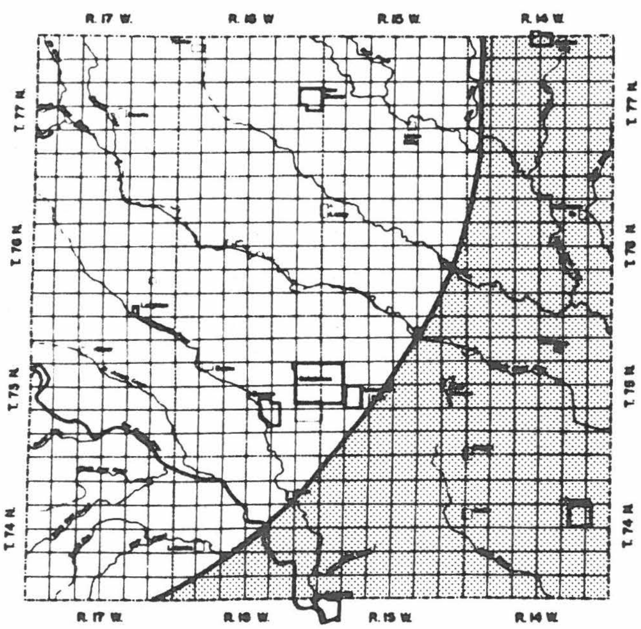
CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN (JORDAN) AQUIFER



Elevation of the Jordan aquifer in feet above sea level



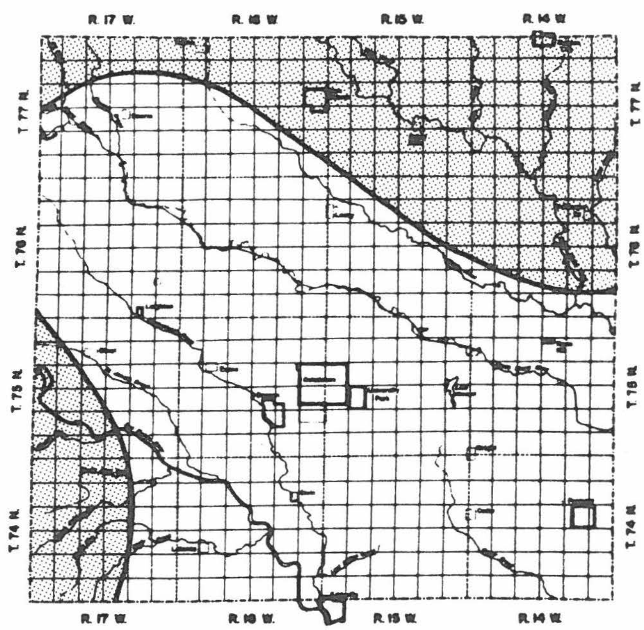
Water levels in wells in feet above mean sea level



Water yields to wells in gallons per minute

200-500

500-1000



Dissolved solids content in milligrams per liter (mg/l)*

500-1000

1000-1500

* Other water quality data in Figure 15

Table 2

SIGNIFICANCE OF MINERAL CONSTITUENTS AND PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF WATER

Constituent or Property	Maximum Recommended Concentration	Significance
Iron (Fe)............	0.3 mg/l..........	Objectional as it causes red and brown staining of clothing and porcelain. High concentrations affect the color and taste of beverages.
Manganese (Mn)......	0.05 mg/l..........	Objectionable for the same reasons as iron. When both iron and manganese are present, it is recommended that the total concentration not exceed 0.3 mg/l.
Calcium (Ca) and Magnesium (Mg).....		Principal causes for hardness and scale-forming properties of water. They reduce the lathering ability of soap.
Sodium (Na) and Potassium (K)........		Impart a salty or brackish taste when combined with chloride. Sodium salts cause foaming in boilers.
Sulfate (SO_4).........	250 mg/l..........	Commonly has a laxative effect when the concentration is 600 to 1,000 mg/l, particularly when combined with magnesium or sodium. The effect is much less when combined with calcium. This laxative effect is commonly noted by newcomers, but they become acclimated to the water in a short time. The effect is noticeable in almost all persons when concentrations exceed 750 mg/l. Sulfate combined with calcium forms a hard scale in boilers and water heaters.
Chloride (Cl).........	250 mg/l..........	Large amounts combined with sodium impart a salty taste.
Fluoride (F)..........	2.0 mg/l..........	In central Iowa, concentrations of 0.8 to 1.3 mg/l are considered to play a part in the reduction of tooth decay. However, concentrations over 2.0 mg/l will cause the mottling of the enamel of children's teeth.
Nitrate (NO_3)........	45 mg/l...........	Waters with high nitrate content should not be used for infant feeding as it may cause methemoglobinemia or cyanosis. High concentrations suggest organic pollution from sewage, decayed organic matter, nitrate in the soil, or chemical fertiliser.
Dissolved solids.......	500 mg/l..........	This refers to all of the material in water that is in solution. It affects the chemical and physical properties of water for many uses. Amounts over 2,000 mg/l will have a laxative effect on most persons. Amounts up to 1,000 mg/l are generally considered acceptable for drinking purposes if no other water is available.
Hardness (as $CaCO_3$)..		This affects the lathering ability of soap. It is generally produced by calcium and magnesium. Hardness is expressed in milligrams per liter equivalent to $CaCO_3$ as if all the hardness were caused by this compound. Water becomes objectionable for domestic use when the hardness is above 100 mg/l; however, it can be treated readily by softening.
Temperature.........		Affects the desirability and economy of water use, especially for industrial cooling and air conditioning. Most users want a water with a low and constant temperature.

To the user, the quality of ground water is as important as the amount of water that an aquifer will yield. As ground water moves through soil and rock materials, it dissolves some of the minerals which, in turn, affect water quality. In addition to mineral content, bacterial and chemical contamination may be introduced through poorly constructed wells and seepage from other pollution sources.

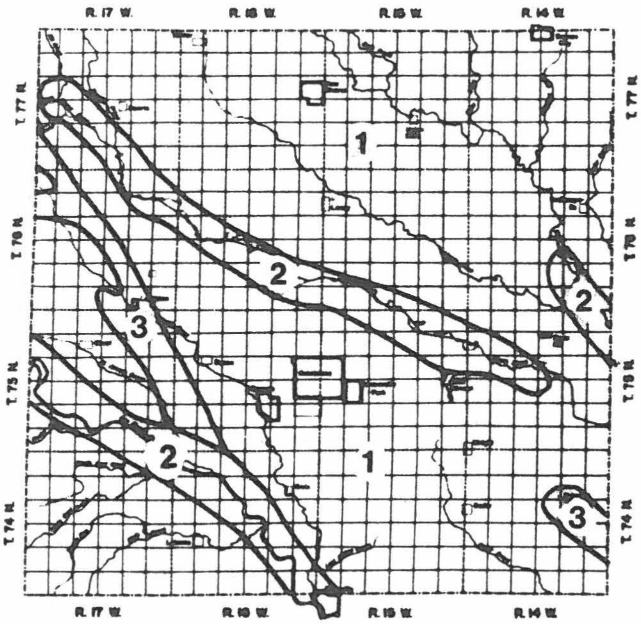
Recommended standards for common water constituents are described in the table above. These are rationally accepted as guidelines for acceptable drinking water supplies. Limits for uses other than drinking often differ from these. For instance, water that is unacceptable for drinking and household use may be completely satisfactory for industrial cooling.

From analyses of ground water averages (A) and ranges (R) of values in milligrams per liter (mg/l) for several mineral constituents are summarized in Figures 13, 14 and 15 for the 4 major aquifers in Mahaska County. Recommended concentrations for some constituents are often exceeded without obvious ill effects, although the water may be unpalatable. Water quality analyses for individual wells should be obtained to determine if concentrations of constituents that affect health are exceeded.

Figure 13

CHEMICAL CHARACTER OF GROUND WATER

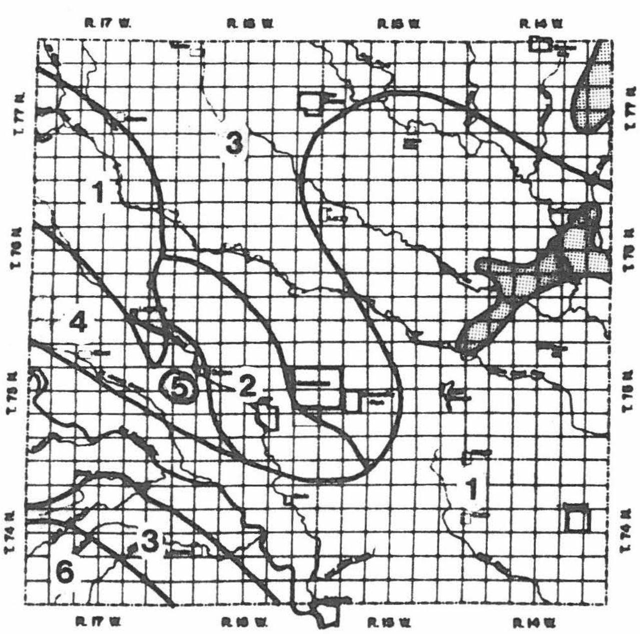
Surficial Aquifers



Area	Average and Range	Calcium (Ca)	Magnesium (Mg)	Sodium and Potassium (Na+K)	Bicarbonate (HCO_3)	Sulfate (SO_4)	Chloride (Cl)	Fluoride (F)	Dissolved Solids	Hardness (as $CaCO_3$)
					Drift Aquifer					
1	A	103	36	40	506	74	2.7	0.4	547	406
	R	77-150	24-61	13-88	304-739	11-393	0.5-7.5	0.2-0.7	357-982	292-625
					Alluvial Aquifer					
2	A	108	31	21	295	169	11	.4	552	395
	R	84-143	20-41	11-28	218-390	22-287	3.5-17	0-1.0	440-726	304-525
					Buried Channel Aquifer					
3	A	53	20	153	579	46	12	.4	591	215
	R	24-88	3.1-39	87-244	410-803	.2-170	2.5-28	0-1.0	357-715	78-360

Water obtained from the surficial auqifers is less mineralized than that from rock aquifers. Water from the allvial and drift aquifers is generally of good quality. That obtained from the buried channel aquifer, because of the close association with rock aquifer sources, can be expected to be more mineralized. Water temperatures average 54°F (12°C) and range between 48° and 58°F (9° and 15°C).

Mississippian Aquifer
Upper Part



Aquifer not present

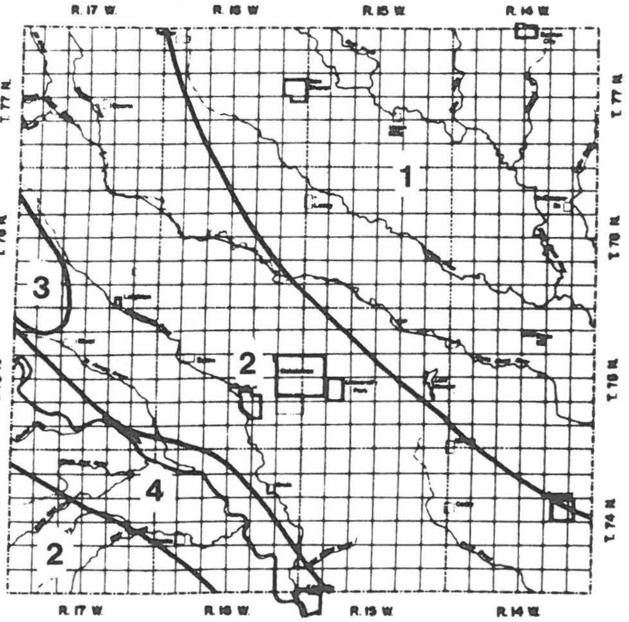
Area	Average and Range	Calcium (Ca)	Magnesium (Mg)	Sodium and Potassium (Na+K)	Bicarbonate (HCO_3)	Sulfate (SO_4)	Chloride (Cl)	Fluoride (F)	Dissolved Solids	Hardness (as $CaCO_3$)
					Upper Part of the Mississippian Aquifer					
1	A	104	32	43	472	91	4.5	0.4	537	399
	R	66-156	19-50	8.8-118	322-802	5.8-240	0.5-24	0-1.8	345-737	315-545
2	A	155	46	84	423	397	9.9	.6	955	578
	R	104-210	21-61	8-177	349-498	321-480	.5-35	0-1.6	793-1050	385-660
3	A	299	92	125	281	1100	8.5	.8	1950	1130
	R	197-547	47-124	33-214	44-434	750-1590	2-22	.3-1.6	1420-2740	723-1560
4	A	61	31	404	608	587	22	2.1	1400	281
	R	54-69	25-37	275-513	471-736	400-710	20-25	.9-3.5	1060-1490	240-324
5	A	600	255	344	984	2350	5.0	.1	4450	2550
	R	580-620	170-340	295-393	927-1040	1900-2800	1-9		3640-5260	2150-2950
6	A	327	76	679	284	2160	68	1.4	3620	1130
	R	154-490	54-99	474-1080	212-350	1500-2850	27-186	1.2-2.4	2710-4880	605-1520

Good to poor quality water is obtained from the Mississippian aquifer (upper part). The water is of notably poorer quality in areas where the aquifer is overlain by Pennsylvanian rocks. This is particularly true in the western half of the county where total dissolved solids and sulfate concentrations are high. Water temperatures averages 55°F (13°C) and ranges between 51° and 60°F (11° and 16°C).

Figure 14

Mississippian Aquifer

Lower Part



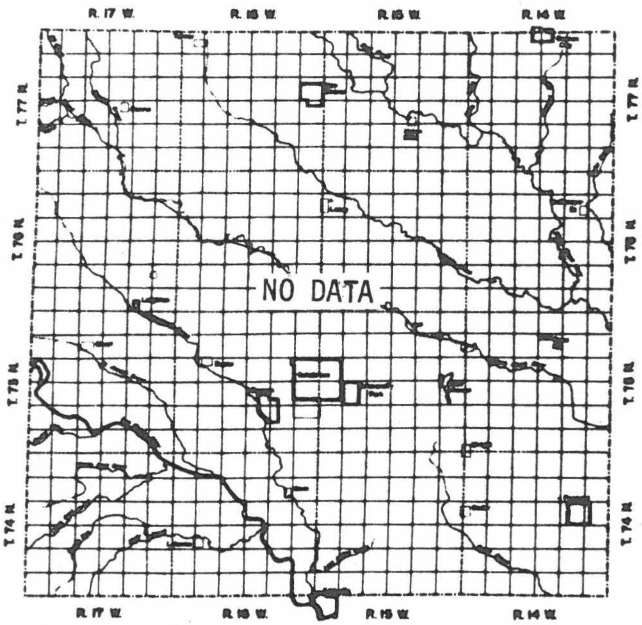
Area	Average and Range	Calcium (Ca)	Magnesium (Mg)	Sodium and Potassium (Na+K)	Bicarbonate (HCO_3)	Sulfate (SO_4)	Chloride (Cl)	Fluoride (F)	Dissolved Solids	Hardness (as $CaCO_3$)
Lower Part of the Mississippian Aquifer										
1	A	236	86	148	346	910	21	.8	1740	959
	R	180-317	32-136	61-232	182-479	600-1200	2.5-54	.4-1	1260-2150	729-1300
2	A	102	52	718	459	1340	169	2.6	2710	469
	R	35-193	15-107	451-994	266-595	920-1660	19-365	.5-6	2220-3250	148-891
3	A	215	82	1375	956	2520	610	1.8	5260	875
	R	102-452	58-120	1040-1630	378-3640	1800-4020	290-930	1.4-3	4070-7330	497-1620
4	A	354	36	38	371	295	86		1500	1040
	R	299-410	24-48	28-47	322-420	8-582	9-162		1190-1800	849-1230

Water in the lower part of the Mississippian aquifer is generally of poorer quality than found in the upper part. Throughout the county the water is exceptionally hard and greatly exceeds recommended levels for sulfate concentrations. Total dissolved solids are extremely high and flouride content is a bit high in areas 1 and 2. Average water temperature is 55°F (13°C), and the range of temperatureis from 51°F to 60°F (10.5° to 15.5°C).

Figure 15

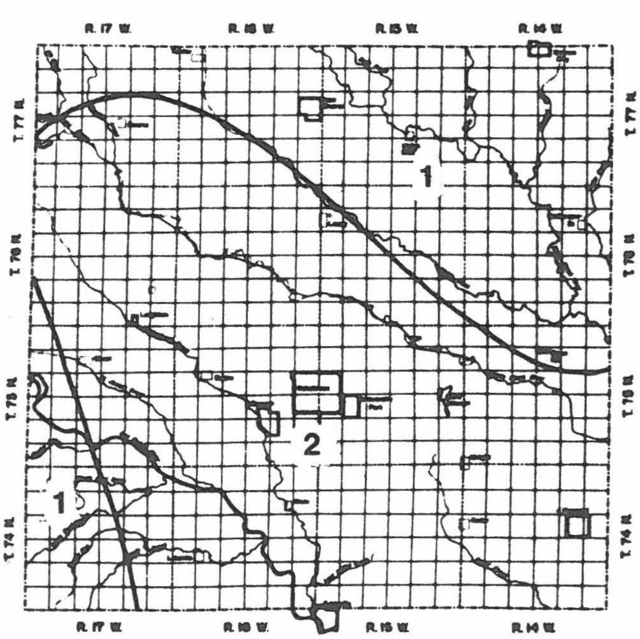
CHEMICAL CHARACTER OF GROUND WATER

Devonian Aquifer



Water from the Devonian aquifer in Mahaska County is highly mineralized. It is generally of too poor quality for drinking and other domestic and livestock uses. Water from this source is typically high in sulfate, sodium, iron and manganese, and its total dissolved solids content exceeds 5000 mg/l. The temperature of Devonian water exceeds that of overlying aquifers and and averages 60°F (16°C). The range in temperature is between 54° and 64°F (12° and 18°C).

Cambro-Ordovician Aquifer



Area	Average and Range	Calcium (Ca)	Magnesium (Mg)	Sodium and Potassium (Na+K)	Bicarbonate (HCO_3)	Sulfate (SO_4)	Chloride (Cl)	Fluoride (F)	Dissolved Solids	Hardness (as $CaCO_3$)
1	A	95	49	158	352	402	28	1.2	932	422
	R	80-104	39-51	142-176	339-368	363-450	24-33	1.0-1.5	876-980	360-465
2	A	106	50	202	304	552	52	1.2	1180	470
	R	98-116	46-54	192-211	283-337	520-600	38-60	1.0-1.5	1120-1240	452-510

This deep aquifer yields water of relatively good quality as compared to the other rock aquifers. The water is noticeable hard and exceeds recommeded standards for sulfate and dissolved solids, but it is not as highly mineralized as that from the lower parts of the Mississippian and Devonian aquifers. Water temperatures are higher than other rock aquifers and average 72°F (22°C) and with a temperature range from 68°F to 76°F (20.0°C to 24.5°C).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRIVATE WATER WELLS

Contracting for Well Construction

To protect your investment and guarantee satisfactory well completion, it is a good idea to have a written agreement with the well driller. The agreement should specify in detail:

- size of well, casing specifications, and types of screen and well seal
- methods of eliminating surface and subsurface contamination
- disinfection procedures to be used
- type of well development if necessary
- test pumping procedure to be used
- date for completion
- itemized cost list including charges for drilling per foot, for materials per unit, and for other operations such as developing and test pumping
- guarantee of materials, workmanship, and that all work will comply with current recommended methods
- liability insurance for owner and driller

Well Location

A well should be located where it will be least subject to contamination from nearby sources of pollution. The Iowa State Department of Health recommends minimum distances between a new well and pollution sources, such as cesspools (150 ft.), septic tanks (50 ft.), and barnyards (50-100 ft. and downslope from well). Greater distances should be provided where possible.

The well location should not be subject to flooding or surface water contamination. Select a well-drained site, extend the well casing a few feet above the ground, and mound earth around it. Diversion terraces or ditches may be necessary on slopes above a well to divert surface runoff around the well site.

In the construction of all wells care should be taken to seal or grout the area between the well bore and the well casing (the annulus) as appropriate so that surface water and other pollutants cannot seep into the well and contaminate the aquifer.

Locate a well where it will be accessible for maintainance, inspection, and repairs. If a pump house is located some distance from major buildings and wired separately for power, continued use of the water supply will be jeopardized by fire in major buildings.

Water Treatment

Water taken from a private well should ideally be tested every six months. The University Hygienic Laboratory will do tests for coliform bacteria, nitrate, iron, hardness, and iron bacteria in drinking water for private individuals. Special bottles must be used for collecting and sending water samples to the laboratory. A sample kit can be obtained by writing to the University Hygienic Laboraroty, University of Iowa, Oakdale Campus, Iowa City, Iowa 52242. Indicate whether your water has been treated with chlorine, iodine, or bromine; for different sample bottles must be used for treated and untreated water. The charge for the bacterial test is $3.00; for iron hardness and nitrate, it is $3.00; and for iron bacteria, $5.00. If your well is determined to be unsafe, advice for correcting the problem can be obtained from your county or state Department of Health. Several certified private laboratories also run water analyses.

Shock chlorination is recommended following the construction and installation of a well and distribution system and anytime these are opened for repairs or remodeling a strong chlorine solution is placed in the well and complete distribution system to kill nuisance and disease-causing organisms. If the first shock chlorination does not rid the water supply of bacteria it should be repeated, if this does not solve the problem the well should be abandoned or the water should be continuously disinifected with proper chlorination equipment.

Since most of the ground waters in Mahaska County are mineralized, water softening and iron removal equipment may make water more palatable and pleasant to use. Softend water contains increased sodium, contact your physician before using a softener if you are on a sodium-restricted diet. Chlorination followed by filtration will remove most forms of iron and iron bacteria. Iron bacteria has no adverse effect on health but will plug wells, water lines, and equipment and cause tastes and odors. Iron removal equipment can be used if problems persist.

Well Abandonment

Wells taken out of service provide easy access for pollution to enter aquifers supplying water to other wells in the vicinity. Unprotected wells may also cause personal injury. Proper abandonment procedures should be followed to restore the natural condition that existed before well construction and prevent any future contamination. Permanent abandonment requires careful sealing. The well should be filled with concrete, cement grout, or sealing clays throughout its entire length. Before dug or bored wells are filled at least the top 10 feet of lining should be removed so surface waters will not penetrate the subsurface through a porous lining or follow cracks in or around the lining. The site should be completely filled and mounded with compacted earth.

ABANDONED WELLS SHOULD NEVER BE USED FOR DISPOSAL OR SEWAGE OR OTHER WASTES.

SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In planning the development of a ground water supply or contracting for the drilling of a new well additional or more specific information is often required. This report section lists several sources and types of additional information.

State Agencies That May Be Consulted

Iowa Geological Survey[1]	123 North Capitol Iowa City 52242	(319) 338-1173
State Health Department[2,6]	Lucas Building Des Moines 50319	(515) 281-5787
Iowa Natural Resources Council[3]	Wallace Building Des Moines 50319	(515) 281-5914
Iowa Dept. of Environ. Quality[4]	Wallace Building Des Moines 50319	(515) 281-8854
University Hygienic Laboratory[5]	U. of IA, Oakdale Campus Iowa City 52242	(319) 353-5990
Cooperative Extension Service in[6] Agriculture and Home Economics	110 Curtis Hall, ISU Ames 50011	(515) 294-4569

Functions:

1 Geologic and ground water data repository, consultant on well problems, water development and related services

2 Drinking water quality, public and private water supplies

3 Water withdrawal regulation and Water Permits for wells withdrawing more than 5000 gpd

4 Municipal supply regulation and well construction permits

5 Water quality analysis

6 Advice on water systems design and maintenance

Well Drillers and Contractors

The listing provided here was drawn from an Iowa Geological Survey mailing list and yellow pages of major towns in phone books. These selected are within an approximate radius of 50 miles of Mahaska County. For a statewide listing contact either the Iowa Water Well Drillers Association, 4350 Hopewell Ave., Bettendorf, Iowa 51712, (319) 255-7528 or the Iowa Geological Survey.

Mr. John Ahrens
Ahrens Well Drilling
R.R. #2
Montezuma, Iowa 50171

Brooks Well and Pump Co.
Knoxville, Iowa 50138

Douglas Bruinekool
Bruinekool Well Co.
Pella, Iowa 50219

Dwayne Bruinekool
Bruinekool Well Co.
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

Gingerich Well Co.
Kalona, Iowa 52247

Miller and Son Well Co.
Kalona, Iowa 52247

Schlicher Brothers Well Co.
Hwy. 34 West
Fairfield, Iowa 52556

Doyle Van De Krol
Sully, Iowa 50251

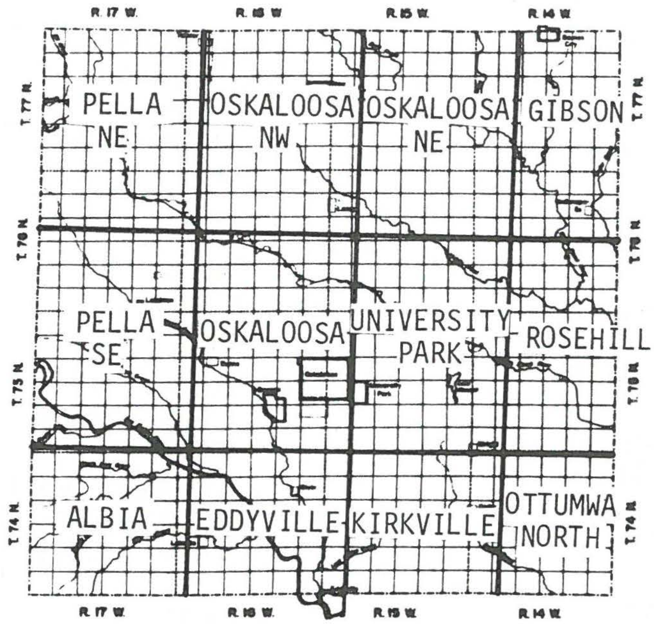
Shilhanek Well Drilling
310 7th St.
Tama, Iowa 52339

Snook Well Co.
Promise City, Iowa 52583

Verwers Well Co.
Sully, Iowa 50251

Whalen Well Co.
1407 1st Ave., West
Newton, Iowa 50208

<u>Topographic Maps</u> (Available from the Iowa Geological Survey)



Map Title	Date	Scale	Contour Interval
Albia	1926	1:62,500	20 ft.
Ottumwa North	1956	1:62,500	20 ft.
Eddyville	1968	1:24,000	10 ft.
Gibson	1965	1:24,000	10 ft.
Kirkville	1968	1:24,000	10 ft.
Oskaloosa	1968	1:24,000	10 ft.
Rose Hill	1965	1:24,000	10 ft.
University Park	1968	1:24,000	10 ft.
	Advance Prints		
Oskaloosa NE		1:24,000	10 ft.
Oskaloosa NW		1:24,000	10 ft.
Pella NE		1:24,000	10 ft.
Pella SE		1:24,000	10 ft.

Useful Reference Materials

Coble, R.W., and Roberts, J.V., 1971, The water resources of Southeast Iowa, Iowa Geological Survey, Water Atlas No. 4.

Horick, P.J., and Steinhilber, W.L., 1973, Mississippian aquifer of Iowa, Iowa Geological Survey, Misc. Map Series No. 3.

Horick, P.J., and Steinhilber, W.L., 1978, Jordon aquifer of Iowa, Iowa Geological Survey, Misc. Map Series No. 6.

Iowa State Department of Health, 1971 Sanitary standards for water wells, State Department of Health, Environmental Engineering Service.

Van Eck, O.J., 1971, Optimal well plugginh procedures, Iowa Geological Survey, Public Information Circular No. 1.

Van Eck, O.J., 1978, Plugging Procedures for domestic wells, Iowa Geological Survey, Public Information Circular No. 11.