

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
MONITORING WELL

CODE 353

Name _____
 Legal Desc. _____

Ident. No. _____
 County _____

A properly operated and maintained monitoring well is an asset to your farm. This structure was designed and installed to provide controlled access for sampling groundwater near an agricultural waste storage or treatment facility in order to detect seepage and monitor the effects of contaminants in seepage on groundwater quality. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of this installation can be ensured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance for satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

General Recommendations

- Keep accurate, detailed records pertaining to monitoring well planning, design, construction, and operation. Complete the Kansas Department of Environment's (KDHE) [Form WWC-5, Water Well Record](#); send a copy to KDHE; and retain a copy for your files. Retain copies of all information about the hydrogeologic conditions around the well site and any design calculations and assumptions.
- Maintain all fences, warning signs, and/or other barriers around the well's buffer zone to prevent unauthorized human, vehicle, or livestock entry.
- Keep the area surrounding the well clear of brush, debris, and waste materials.

- Check the concrete pad and any visible grout seals for cracking or settlement.
- Keep the wellhead cover locked when not in use to prevent unauthorized access.
- Inspect the well yearly and repair or replace any wellhead protection components that have been damaged or are otherwise not functioning properly. Provide a temporary cover over the well whenever repair work is interrupted by such events as overnight shutdown, poor weather, delayed acquisition of permanent equipment, or testing or sampling requirements.
- Inspect the project area after heavy rains or unanticipated freezes. Promptly repair any damage and install measures as needed to avoid future damages.
- Inspect for damage from rodents or burrowing animals. Repair any damage. Take appropriate corrective actions to avoid further damage.
- Check the level of aggregate in filter-packed wells and refill with new material as needed.
- Regularly review monitoring data and identify unexpected results that indicate potentially impaired well function due to structural damages and/or altered subsurface conditions. In particular, look for variations in water level and volume, turbidity, and sand content. Collect more information as needed to isolate the problem(s) and follow up with repairs, rehabilitation, and/or decommissioning as needed.

- Rehabilitate monitoring wells where yield has been impacted by intrusion or clogging of the screen, filter pack, and/or water-bearing strata adjoining the well. Potentially feasible rehabilitation methods include surging with air, mechanical surging, backwashing, water jetting, sonic cleaning, and/or treating with chemicals.

Specific Recommendations

If you need additional technical assistance to implement the operation and maintenance plan for this structure, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at your local USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government).