

April, 2006**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

Landowner _____

WHY SELECTION OF A WATER WELL SITE IS IMPORTANT

When selecting a location or site for a well, selection should be based upon an expectation that an adequate amount of water can be developed for the intended purpose of the well. Wells can be used for many purposes including water supplies for livestock, wildlife, irrigation, human, and other similar uses.

WHAT CRITERIA DOES A WATER WELL HAVE TO MEET?

Water wells are required to meet the standards outlined in Chapters 30 and 35 of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) Rules. A permit is required for all wells used for other than domestic use. All wells must be constructed by a well driller with a valid license from the OWRB. Water quality testing should be done in conjunction with the well drilling operation to determine that the water supply will safely meet the landowners intended purpose.

HOW TO SELECT A SUITABLE SITE

The availability of groundwater for its intended use at the site should be determined by using reliable local experience and reviewing all available relevant geologic maps and reports. Many state and federal agencies maintain well records. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board, the United States Geologic Survey, and the Oklahoma Geologic Survey are some of the agencies that have this information. Maps from these agencies are also available that show major groundwater aquifers and terrace and alluvial groundwater resources.

Some of the best information available to a landowner when selecting a well site is to visit with reliable local well drillers and obtain information and recommendations based on their experience. It is

also a good idea to obtain design, construction and maintenance records of nearby wells.

In many cases, it is prudent to first drill a test well at the proposed site prior to well construction in order to determine site specific hydrogeologic conditions. In the case of small diameter domestic and livestock wells, test wells may not be a cost effective alternative.

In all cases remember that, even when site selection is based on the best information that can be obtained from local or other sources, there are still risks involved in drilling and obtaining an adequate supply of water. Final site selection should be determined by the landowner in conjunction with their well driller.

SELECT A SITE BASED ON PROTECTION OF THE WELLHEAD

Wells should be located in areas that are protected from potential sources of pollution, from surface water runoff, and drainage from areas used by livestock. Wells should also be located a safe distance from both overhead and underground utility lines and other safety hazards.

FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

Contact your local NRCS or conservation district office for additional information relating to the selection of a well site.

The OWRB rules can be found at the following website: www.owrb.state.ok.us

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