UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

GEOHYDROLOGIC DATA FOR TEST WELL USW H-5, YUCCA MOUNTAIN AREA, NYE COUNTY, NEVADA

by

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.

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CONVERSION TABLE

Multiply metric unit	by	To obtain inch-pound unit
millimeter (mm)	0.03937	inch (in.)
kilometer (km)	0.6214	mile (mi)
meter (m)	3.281	foot (ft)
degree Celsius (°C)	°F=(9/5x°C)+32	degree Fahrenheit (°F)
milligram per liter (mg/L)	¹ 1.0	part per million (ppm)
microgram per liter (µg/L) liter per second (L/s)	¹ 1.0 15.85	part per billion (ppb) gallon per minute (gal/min)

¹Approximate.

National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929--a geodetic datum derived from a general adjustment of the first-order level nets of both the United States and Canada, formerly called Mean Sea Level; it is referred to as sea level in this report.

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ABSTRACT

This report presents data on drilling operations, lithology, borehole geophysics, water-level monitoring, core analysis, ground-water chemistry, pumping tests, and packer-injection tests for test well USW H-5. The well is one of a series of test wells drilled in and near the southwestern part of the Nevada Test Site, Nye County, Nevada, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy. These test wells are part of the Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigations to identify suitable sites for storage of high-level radioactive wastes.

Test well USW H-5 was drilled to a total depth of 1,219 meters through volcanic rocks consisting mostly of ash-flow tuff. Depth to water in the well ranged between 703.8 and 707.2 meters below land surface, at an approximate altitude of 704 meters above sea level. Drawdown in the well exceeded 6 meters after test pumping more than 3,000 minutes at a rate of 10 liters per second. Borehole-flow surveys showed that about 90 percent of the water in the well is contributed by the zone between 707 and about 820 meters below land surface. Two composite water samples collected after well completion contained 206 and 220 milligrams per liter of dissolved solids. Sodium and bicarbonate were the predominant dissolved anion and cation. The concentration of dissolved silica was 48 milligrams per liter in both samples, which is a relatively large concentration for most natural waters.

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Geological Survey has been conducting investigations at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, to evaluate the hydrologic and geologic suitability of the site for storing high-level nuclear waste in an underground mined repository. These investigations are part of the Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigations being conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office. Test drilling has been a principal method of investigation. This report presents geohydrologic and drill-hole data from test well USW H-5.

Test well USW H-5 is located in Nye County, Nevada, about 140 km northwest of Las Vegas in the southern part of the State (fig. 1). It is on the crest of Yucca Mountain, northwest of Jackass Flats (fig. 2). Location of the site is Nevada State Coordinate System Central Zone N 766,643 and E 558,943. Altitude of the land surface at the well site is 1,478.5 m above sea level.









DRILLING OPERATIONS

Drilling of test well USW H-5 started on May 19, 1982; total depth of 1,219 m was reached on June 23, 1982. The rotary-drilling fluid was air foam, consisting of air, detergent, and water. Well deviation was less than 2° from vertical. Well construction is shown in figure 3. Detailed drilling history is contained in the files of the engineering consulting firm, Fenix and Scisson, Inc., Las Vegas, Nevada.

LITHOLOGIC SAMPLING AND WELL LOGGING

Lithologic Log

Lithology penetrated in the drilling of test well USW H-5, as determined from rock-bit cuttings and core, is shown in table 1. Ash-flow tuffs are the predominant rock type in most of the subsurface section. Thin beds of airfall and bedded tuffs separate the ash-flow tuff units. The tuffs display various degrees of welding, alteration, and zeolitization. The lowermost 173 m of the hole was drilled in what appears to be dacitic and zeolitic lava. In most of the report, shortened names of stratigraphic units are used (For the complete designation of formations and members, see table 1).

Geophysical Well Logs

Geophysical logs were run in test well USW H-5 to define lithology, correlate with logs of nearby wells, collect data on porosity and fractures, obtain fluid levels, locate casing perforations and cement, and gage the diameter of the well. Geophysical logs were used to help select intervals for hydraulic testing. A summary of geophysical logs made in this well and the intervals logged are listed in table 2.

Geophysical logs that can be related directly to water-yielding zones include: (1) The self-potential curve on electric logs; (2) the optical television log that shows water seeps above the water table and low-angle fractures in the water-yielding zone; and (3) the temperature log that shows gradient changes opposite water-yielding zones.

Hydrologic Properties of Core Samples

Conventional-core samples were not collected during drilling operations. Seven sidewall-core samples were obtained from the depth interval 508 to 599 m. These samples were used for lithologic description, but were not of suitable quality or quantity for determination of hydrologic properties.



Figure 3.-- Well construction.

Stratigraphy and lithologic description	Thickness of interval (meters)	Depth to bottom of interval (meters) ¹
Paintbrush Tuff of Tertiary age		
Tiva Canyon Member		
Tuff, ash-flow, brownish-gray, densely welded, devitrified (probable vapor-phase crystalli- zation from 10.7-12.2 meters).	12.2	12.2
Tuff, ash-flow, light-brownish-gray and light gray, densely welded, devitrified (probable lithophysal zone); 5 percent phenocrysts of sanidine and plagioclase.	51.8	64.0
Tuff, ash-flow, light-brownish-gray to brownish gray, densely welded, devitrified; pumice, light gray, devitrified; less than 1 percent phenocrysts.	45.7	109.7
Tuff, ash-flow, dark-yellowish-brown, moderately welded, devitrified; pumice, dark-yellowish brown, devitrified; 2 percent phenocrysts (sanidine and plagioclase); rare grayish-red volcanic lithic fragments.	9.2	118.9
Tuff, ash-flow, pale-yellowish-brown, partially welded, devitrified; pumice, pale-yellowish brown and brownish gray; 2 percent phehocrysts (sanidine and plagioclase); interval from 121.9 124.9 meter contains grayish-orange, argillic pumice fragments.	6.1	124.9
Tuff, ash-flow, grayish-orange, nonwelded, vitric; pumice, light-brown, argillic; less than 1 per cent phenocrysts; abundant black and light-brown glass shards.	22.9	147.8
Bedded tuff (unnamed)		
<pre>Tuff, bedded, bedded/ash-fall(?), moderate-reddish orange vitric, abundant grayish pink and white vitric pumice.</pre>	1.6	149.4

Table 1.--Lithologic log

Stratigraphy and lithologic description	Thickness of interval (meters)	Depth to bottom of interval (meters) ¹
Paintbrush TuffContinued		
Pah Canyon Member Tuff, ash-flow, moderate-orange-pink, dusky yellow, nonwelded, vitric; pumice, dusky yellow, vitric; 5 percent phenocrysts (sani- dine, plagioclase, biotite).	13.7	163.1
Bedded tuff (unnamed)		
<pre>Tuff, bedded(?), ash-fall grayish- pink, vitric.</pre>	2.1	165.2
Topopah Spring Member		
Tuff, ash-flow, moderate-red, nonwelded, vitric pumice, dominantly moderate red; sparse bronze biotite.	; 7.9	173.1
<pre>Tuff, ash-flow, moderate-red, densely welded, (vitrophyre).</pre>	0.6	173.7
Tuff, ash-flow, grayish-red, densely welded, devitrified; 10 percent phenocrysts [sanidine plagioclase, bronze biotite; (caprock)].	6 .1	179.8
Tuff, ash-flow, pale brown, moderately welded, vapor phase; pumice, dominantly light gray, vapor phase; 5 to 10 percent phenocrysts (sanidine, plagioclase, biotite).	28.6	208.5
Tuff, ash-flow, grayish-red and medium-light gray (mottled), densely welded, devitrified; pumice, very light gray to white, devitrified some vapor-phase crystallization; less than 2 percent phenocrysts (sanidine and plagioclase probable lithophysal zone.	,); 218.2	426.7
Tuff, ash-flow, light-brown and brownish-gray (mottled), densely welded, devitrified; less than 2 percent phenocrysts.	55.5	482.2
<pre>Tuff, ash-flow, black, densely welded (vitrophyre).</pre>	22.2	504.4

(meter 5)	(meters) ¹
13.5	517.9
3.4	521.2
, 51.8	573.0
; 6, 1 t	
	13.5 13.5 3.4 51.8 51.8

Stratigraphy and lithologic description	Thickness of interval (meters)	Depth to bottom of interval (meters) ¹
Crater Flat Tuff of Tertiary age		
Prow Pass Member		
Tuff, ash-flow, grayish-orange, nonwelded, vitric; pumice, very pale orange, vitric; 7 to 10 percent phenocrysts (quartz, sanidine, plagioclase, biotite, pyroxene); sidewall sample collected at 599.2 meters.	7.6	600.5
Tuff, ash-flow, yellowish-gray and light-brownish gray partially welded, devitrified and vapor phase crystalization; pumice, yellowish-gray to white, vapor phase; 10 to 12 percent phenocrysts [quartz, sanidine, plagioclase, biotite, ortho- pyroxene (?)]; rare mudstone lithic fragments; probable pale-yellow-brown bedded interval between 600.5-603.5(?) meters.	47.2	647.7
Tuff, ash-flow, grayish-orange and yellowish-gray, nonwelded, zeolitized; pumice, grayish-yellow, yellowish-gray, dusky yellow, zeolitized; 10 percent phenocrysts (quartz, sanidine, plagio- clase, biotite); rare mudstone lithic fragments; upper 12.2 meters of interval may be slightly silicified; analysis of bit-cutting samples from interval indicate a clinoptilolite/ mordenite content of more than 60 percent. ²	35.1	682.8
Bedded tuff (unnamed)		
Tuff, bedded, light brown, poorly sorted; pumice very pale-orange, zeolitic(?); in television-camera log, bedding planes identified at 684.0, 684.3, and 684.9 meters.	7.0	689.8
Bullfrog Member		
Tuff, ash-flow, light-olive-gray and greenish-gray, partially welded(?), vapor phase; pumice, yellowish-gray, light gray, vapor-phase crystal lization; 10-15 percent phenocrysts (quartz, plagioclase, sanidine, abundant biotite); bit cuttings from 758.9-792.5 meters are very fine- grained and difficult to analyze.	81.3	771.1

Stratigraphy and lithologic description	Thickness of interval (meters)	Depth to bottom of interval (meters) ¹
Crater Flat TuffContinued		
Bullfrog MemberContinued		
Tuff, ash-flow, very-pale-orange to grayish-orange, partially welded(?) devitrified; very fine- grained bit cuttings.	24.4	795.5
Tuff, ash-flow, yellowish-gray and light-brownish gray, partially to moderately welded, devitrified and zeolitic; pumice, yellowish-gray and light brown, devitrified and zeolitic; 7 percent pheno- crysts (quartz, plagioclase, sanidine, biotite).	i 18.3	813.8
Tuff, ash-flow, light-brown and grayish-orange, moderately to densely welded, devitrified; pumice light-brown, devitrified; 15 to 20 percent pheno- crysts (quartz, plagioclase, sanidine, biotite); rare brownish-gray rhyolitic-lithic fragments.	2, 12.2	826.0
Tuff, ash-flow, light-brown, partially welded, devitrified; pumice, light brown and moderate greenish-yellow, devitrified and zeolitic; 10 to 15 percent phenocrysts (quartz, sanidine, plagioclase hornblende, biotite); x-ray analysis of bit-cutting samples from this interval indicat more than 50 percent clinoptilolite and more than 10 percent opaline silica.	te 0.9	826.9
Bedded tuff (unnamed)		
Tuff, bedded, reworked, moderate-reddish-brown, white pale olive, moderately indurated, abundant white pumice fragments.	8.8	835.8
Tram Member		
Tuff, ash-flow, pale red, moderate-orange-pink, moderately welded(?), devitrified; pumice, white to grayish-orange-pink, devitrified; 15 to 20 percent phenocrysts (quartz, sanidine, plagioclase, biotite; rare grayish-red rhyolitic lithic fragments.	14.6	850.4

Stratigraphy and lithologic description	Thickness of interval (meters)	Depth to bottom of interval (meters) ¹
Crater Flat TuffContinued		<u></u>
Tram MemberContinued		
Tuff, ash-flow, light-brown, light-olive-gray, light-brownish-gray, partially welded, devitri- fied; pumice, light-brown, very-pale-brown, very-pale-orange, devitrified; 10 percent pheno- crysts; grayish-red and medium-gray volcanic lithic fragments.	134.1	984.5
Tuff, ash-flow, grayish-orange and dark-yellowish- orange, partially welded, devitrified [slightly altered to zeolites(?)]; pumice, white, grayish orange-pink and dark-yellowish-brown; 10 to 15 percent phenocrysts; abundant grayish-red and medium-gray volcanic-lithic fragments.	27.4	1,011.9
Tuff, ash-flow, grayish-red, partially welded, zeolitic; pumice, moderate-orange-pink and grayish-red, zeolitic; 10 percent phenocrysts (quartz, plagioclase, sanidine, biotite); abundant grayish-red and medium-gray volcanic lithic fragments; x-ray analysis of bit- cutting samples indicates this interval contains 50 percent clinoptilolite.	28.1	1,040.0
Bedded tuff (unnamed)		
Tuff, bedded, reworked, brownish-gray and olive gray, zeolitic.	3.0	1,043.0
Lava (unnamed)		
Lava, grayish-green, moderate-yellow-green, dark greenish-gray, altered to zeolites(?), abundant biotite and hornblende(?).	20.8	1,063.8

•

Lava--Continued

Lava, dusky-yellow and light-olive, grayish-red, dark-reddish-brown, pale-red, greenish-gray, dacitic(?) zeolitic, 25 to 30 percent phenocrysts (sanidine, plagioclase, abundant biotite and hornblende); x-ray analysis indicates parts of interval may contain as much as 30 percent clinoptilolite; interval from 1,063.8-1,109.5 meters is, in part, glassy.	5, 155.4	1,219.2
	Total Depth ¹	1,219.2

¹Depth to bottom of individual interval and total depth are accurate only to the nearest meter, but are reported to tenths of a meter to agree with the thickness of individual units. Total depth probably is 1,219 meters ± 0.5 meter.

²X-ray analyses by P. D. Blackman (U.S. Geological Survey).

Geophysical log	Intervals logged (meters below land surface)	Geophysical log	Intervals logged (meters below land surface)
Acoustic	788-1,216	Neutron, compensated	8 7- 787
Acoustic fracture	788-1,218		704-1,218
Caliper	0- 93	Gamma ray	85- 786
·	76- 315	•	0-1,119
	79- 788		3-1,218
	686-1,212	Geophone	93- 785
	733-1,214		785-1,212
	766-1,104	Gyroscopic	0-1,213
Density, borehole	84- 788	Magnetometer	95- 786
compensated	704-1,218	Spectralog	3-1,218
Density	6- 94		15-1,218
Electric	3- 94	Televiewer, acoustica	787-1,051
	88- 785	Television, optical	9 4- 703
	788-1,218	<i>,</i> ,	784-1,041
Epithermal neutron	79- 788	Temperature	0- 786
-	0- 802	•	3-1,212
			6-1,210

Table 2.--Summary of geophysical well logs

Water Levels

Water-level observations and measurements in test well USW H-5 were made during and after the drilling for the purpose of: (1) Locating any perched water zones above the water table; (2) identifying depth at which groundwater saturation occurs; (3) determining composite hydraulic head in the well; and (4) identifying hydraulic heads in various water-bearing zones. Water-level measurements are listed in table 3.

HYDROLOGIC TESTING AND WATER SAMPLING

Pumping Tests

Drawdown and recovery tests were made in conjunction with four pumping periods, after test well USW H-5 had been drilled to its total depth, cased to 790 m, and casing perforated below 707 m. Pumping tests are summarized in table 4. Data plots of the drawdown and recovery tests for the third pumping period, and of the recovery test for the fourth pumping period are shown in

Table 3.--Water levels

Date	Depth zone (meters)	Water level (meter Depth to water below land surface	in well s) Altitude of water surface above sea level	Remarks
6-14-82 6-27-82 6-28-82 6-29-82 6-29-82	704- 792 707-1,219 do do	704.2 705.0 705.8 705.0 705.1	774.3 773.5 772.7 773.5 773.4	Pump on and off during previous 3 bours
6-29-82 7-06-82	do do	703.9 706.3	774.6 772.2	2-1/2 days recovery after pumping 4 days at 10 liters per second.
7-12-82 7-13-82 7-14-82 7-14-82 7-15-82	do 790- 796 796- 815 815- 834 1,015-1,034	704.9 704.6 704.7 704.8 704.8	773.6 773.9 773.8 773.7 773.7	
7-16-82 7-18-82 7-18-82 7-18-82 7-19-82 7-25-82	1,033-1,052 834- 895 888- 949 949-1,010 1,052-1,219 707-1,219	704.7 704.0 704.2 704.0 704.2 704.4	773.8 774.5 774.3 774.5 774.3 774.3 774.1	

[Altitude of land surface at well is 1,478.5 meters; water level in well accurate to ±0.5 meter]

figures 4 through 6. Drawdown-test data were plotted, using drawdown versus time after start of pumping as the coordinates. Recovery-test data were plotted with residual drawdown (recovery) against time after pumping stopped as the coordinates. The first two pumping tests were terminated prematurely by pump failure, and water-level observations were not recorded during recovery following the first pumping test. The fourth pumping test was made primarily to perform a borehole-flow survey, and drawdown data were incomplete; however, complete recovery data were obtained.











Figure 6.--Water-level recovery, pumping test 4, depth interval from 707 to 1,219 meters.

Type of test	Pumping rate (liters per second)	Pumping/recovery period (minutes)
Drawdown (first test)	13	100
Drawdown (second test)	12	55
Recovery (second test)	¹ 12	183
Drawdown (third test)	10	5,298
Recovery (third test)	¹ 10	3,681
Recovery (fourth test)	¹ 7.6	720

Table 4.--Summary of pumping tests for the depth interval from 707 to 1,219 meters in the Bullfrog Member and Tram Member of the Crater Flat Tuff and lava

¹Pumping rate prior to recovery.

Borehole-Flow Surveys

Borehole-flow surveys with a radioactive tracer were used to measure vertical flow of water in test well USW H-5, while water was being pumped from the well. Iodine-131 was released into the well at selected intervals, and was tracked past two gamma detectors to determine velocity of the water. Velocity, multiplied by the cross-sectional area of the hole determined from caliper logs, defined rate of flow in the well at a given depth. Borehole-flow surveys were made in connection with pumping periods 3 and 4, after the well had been cased and the casing perforated; results of these surveys are shown in figures 7 and 8.

Packer-Injection Tests

Packer-injection tests were conducted by using inflatable packers to isolate test zones; tests were performed at intervals where hole size and configuration allowed setting of the packers. Intervals tested are listed in table 5. Water was injected into the interval between two packers, or between one packer and the bottom of the hole. Decline of hydraulic head with time was monitored in the isolated interval. Eleven tests were conducted in test well USW H-5 for the intervals between 790 and 1,219 m (total depth). Injection curves are plotted in figures 9 through 19. The ratio of hydraulic head after injection (H_t) to initial hydraulic head (H_o) is plotted against time since injection began.

Chemical Analyses of Water

Composite water samples were collected for chemical analysis from test well USW H-5 near the end of the third and fourth drawdown tests. The first sample was collected after the casing in the upper part of the saturated zone was perforated with 90 holes; the second sample was collected after the casing



Figure 7.--Borehole-flow survey 1 showing percent of total pumping rate produced by intervals.



Figure 8.--Borehole-flow survey 2 showing percent of total pumping rate produced by intervals.

Test interval (meters)	Stratigraphic unit(s) tested	Length of injection period (minutes)
790- 796	Bullfrog Member	114
796- 815	do	120
815- 834	do	60
887 - 947	Tram Member	60
888- 949	do	60
949-1,010	do	180
1,015-1,033	do	150
1,015-1,033	do	150
1,033-1,052	Tram Member and lava	120
1,139-1,200	lava	120
1,052-1,219	do	60

Table 5.--Summary of packer-injection test

in the upper part of the water zone was perforated with an additional 360 holes (see fig. 3 for perforated intervals). Results of these analyses are listed in table 6. Two composite water samples collected after well completion contained 206 and 220 mg/L of dissolved solids. Sodium and bicarbonate were the predominant dissolved anion and cation. The concentration of dissolved silica was 48 mg/L in both samples, which is a relatively large concentration for most natural waters.



























Figure 15.--Packer-injection test for depth interval from 949 to 1,010 meters.

















	Concentratio	Concentration or value	
Dissolved constituent or property —	Sample taken 07-03-82	Sample taken 07-26-82	
Bicarbonate	- 124	124	
Calcium (Ca)	1.9	2.0	
Chloride (C1)	6.1	6.6	
Fluoride (F)	1.4	1.4	
Lithium (Li), in micrograms per liter	62	71	
Magnesium (Mg)	0.01	0.01	
Potassium (K)	2.1	2.1	
Silica (SiO ₂)	48	48	
Sodium (Na) [∠]	60	60	
Strontium (Sr), in micrograms per liter	9	4	
Sulfate (SO,)	16	16	
Dissolved solids (residue on evaporation)	220	206	
Temperature, in degrees Celsius Specific conductance, onsite, in microsiemens per	36.5	35.3	
centimeter at 25° Celsius Specific conductance, laboratory, in microsiemens	¹ 275	278	
per centimeter at 25° Celsius	273	276	
pH, onsite, in standard units	7.8	7.9	
pH, laboratory, in standard units	7.8	8.0	
Tritium, in picocuries per liter	200	200	
0xygen 18-16 (δ ¹⁸ 0) ²	13.6	-13.6	
Deuterium/hydrogen (δ ² H) ³	102	-101	
Carbon 13-12 $(\delta^{13}C)^4$	10.3	-10.3	
Carbon-14, percent of modern standard	18.2	21.4	

Table 6.--Results of chemical analyses of water samples from depth interval between 707 and 1,219 meters

[Analyses by U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, Colo.; all dissolved constituents are in milligrams per liter unless otherwise indicated]

¹Equivalent to micromhos per centimeter at 25° Celsius.

²Deviation of oxygen-18/oxygen-16 ratio of sample from standard mean ocean water (SMOW) relative to SMOW, in parts per thousand.

³Deviation of deuterium/hydrogen ratio of sample from standard mean ocean water (SMOW) relative to SMOW, in parts per thousand.

⁴Deviation of carbon-13/carbon-12 ratio of sample from PeeDee belemnite standard (PDB) relative to PDB, in parts per thousand.

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