

Planning, Developing and Maintaining a Groundwater Supply

A Brochure for Small Communities in the Midwest

The Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) organized two groundwater workshops to teach engineering consultants, water operators, and drillers about the groundwater resources of the state, techniques for well and aquifer test analysis, well and well field design considerations, and the steps needed for development of or expansion of a groundwater supply. Using these materials as a basis, MTAC has funded the ISWS to develop a guidance booklet for small systems on the issues, needs, and steps necessary for developing/expanding their groundwater supply.

The booklet provides an introductory section on groundwater terms and concepts to provide the operator a basic knowledge of groundwater and well hydrology and hydraulics, a description of the areas in the Midwest suitable for groundwater exploration, step by step instructions on what tasks and considerations are necessary to properly develop a groundwater supply, responsibilities for planning and developing a groundwater supply, state by state (region 5) contacts and links to the requirements for permitting, installing, and operating a groundwater supply, and a list of resources in each state that the operator can turn to for advice and guidance.

The booklet provides the small system operator with an easy to follow, and understandable guide for developing a groundwater supply. Several hundred print copies are available from MTAC, it can also be provided on CD-ROM, and is available on the MTAC website. This document is expected to become the go-to resource for groundwater exploration for small system operators and provide a framework for small communities to minimize expenses for planning as they utilize the information in the booklet to work with their state resource personnel to develop a successful supply. The booklet also provides community leaders with a basic understanding of groundwater concepts so that they can effectively communicate with their constituents and the contractors they hire to undertake the task of supply development.