



# GROUNDWATER WELL SAMPLING

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## 1.0 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

The objective of this standard operating procedure (SOP) is to provide general reference information on sampling of ground water wells. This guideline is primarily concerned with the collection of water samples from the saturated zone of the subsurface. Every effort must be made to ensure that the sample is representative of the particular zone of water being sampled. These procedures are designed to be used in conjunction with analyses for the most common types of ground water contaminants (e.g., volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, pesticides, metals, biological parameters).

These are standard (i.e., typically applicable) operating procedures which may be varied or changed as required, dependent upon site conditions, equipment limitations or limitations imposed by the procedure. In all instances, the ultimate procedures employed should be documented and associated with the final report.

Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) endorsement or recommendation for use.

## 2.0 METHOD SUMMARY

In order to obtain a representative groundwater sample for chemical analysis it is important to remove stagnant water in the well casing and the water immediately adjacent to the well before collection of the sample. This may be achieved with one of a number of instruments. The most common of these are the bailer, submersible pump, non-contact gas bladder pump, inertia pump and suction pump. At a minimum, three well volumes should be purged, if possible. Equipment must be decontaminated prior to use and between wells. Once purging is completed and the correct laboratory-cleaned sample containers have been prepared, sampling may proceed. Sampling may be conducted with any of the above instruments,

and need not be the same as the device used for purging. Care should be taken when choosing the sampling device as some will affect the integrity of the sample. Sampling should occur in a progression from the least to most contaminated well, if this information is known.

The growing concern over the past several years over low levels of volatile organic compounds in water supplies has led to the development of highly sophisticated analytical methods that can provide detection limits at part per trillion levels. While the laboratory methods are extremely sensitive, well controlled and quality assured, they cannot compensate for a poorly collected sample. The collection of a sample should be as sensitive, highly developed and quality assured as the analytical procedures.

## 3.0 SAMPLE PRESERVATION, CONTAINERS, HANDLING, AND STORAGE

The type of analysis for which a sample is being collected determines the type of bottle, preservative, holding time, and filtering requirements. Samples should be collected directly from the sampling device into appropriate laboratory cleaned containers. Check that a Teflon liner is present in the cap, if required. Attach a sample identification label. Complete a field data sheet, a chain of custody form, and record all pertinent data in the site logbook.

Samples shall be appropriately preserved, labelled, logged, and placed in a cooler to be maintained at 4EC. Samples must be shipped well before the holding time is up and ideally should be shipped within 24 hours of sample collection. It is imperative that samples be shipped or delivered daily to the analytical laboratory in order to maximize the time available for the laboratory to perform the analyses. The bottles should be shipped with adequate packing and cooling to ensure that they arrive intact.

Sample retrieval systems suitable for the valid collection of volatile organic samples are: positive displacement bladder pumps, gear driven submersible pumps, syringe samplers and bailers (Barcelona, 1984; Nielsen, 1985). Field conditions and other constraints will limit the choice of appropriate systems. The focus of concern must remain to provide a valid sample for analysis, one which has been subjected to the least amount of turbulence possible.

Treatment of the sample with sodium thiosulfate preservative is required only if there is residual chlorine in the water that could cause free radical chlorination and change the identity of the original contaminants. It should not be used if there is no chlorine in the water.

Holding time for volatiles analysis is seven days. It is imperative that the sample be shipped or delivered daily to the analytical laboratory. The bottles must be shipped on their sides to aid in maintaining the airtight seal during shipment, with adequate packing and cooling to ensure that they arrive intact.

For collection of volatile organic samples, refer to the work plan to ensure that 40 mL glass sample vials with Teflon lined septa are ordered and in sufficient numbers. Check sampling supplies; field kit for chlorine, preservatives, Parafilm, foam sleeves and coolers. Due to the extreme trace levels at which volatile organics are detectable, cross contamination and introduction of contaminants must be avoided. Trip blanks are incorporated into the shipment package to provide a check against cross contamination.

## **4.0 INTERFERENCES AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS**

### **4.1 General**

The primary goal in performing ground water sampling is to obtain a representative sample of the ground water body. Analysis can be compromised by field personnel in two primary ways: (1) taking an unrepresentative sample, or (2) by incorrect handling of the sample. There are numerous ways of introducing foreign contaminants into a sample, and these must be avoided by following strict sampling procedures and utilizing trained field personnel.

### **4.2 Purging**

In a nonpumping well, there will be little or no vertical mixing of the water, and stratification will occur. The well water in the screened section will mix with the ground water due to normal flow patterns, but the well water above the screened section will remain isolated, become stagnant, and may lack the contaminants representative of the ground water. Persons sampling should realize that stagnant water may contain foreign material inadvertently or deliberately introduced from the surface, resulting in an unrepresentative sample. To safeguard against collecting nonrepresentative stagnant water, the following guidelines and techniques should be adhered to during sampling:

1. As a general rule, all monitor wells should be pumped or bailed prior to sampling. Purge water should be containerized on site or handled as specified in the site specific project plan. Evacuation of a minimum of one volume of water in the well casing, and preferably three to five volumes, is recommended for a representative sample. In a high-yielding ground water formation and where there is no stagnant water in the well above the screened section, evacuation prior to sample withdrawal is not as critical. However, in all cases where the monitoring data is to be used for enforcement actions, evacuation is recommended.
2. When purging with a pump (not a bailer), the pump should be set at the screened interval, or if the well is an open-rock well, it should be set at the same depth the sample will be collected. When sampling a screened well, the sample should also be collected from the same depth the pump was set at.
3. The well should be sampled as soon as possible after purging.
4. Analytical parameters typically dictate whether the sample should be collected through the purging device, or through a separate sampling instrument.
5. For wells that can be pumped or bailed to dryness with the equipment being used, the well should be evacuated and allowed to recover prior to collecting a sample. If the recovery rate is fairly rapid and time allows, evacuation of more than one volume of water

is preferred. If recovery is slow, sample the well upon recovery after one evacuation.

6. A non-representative sample can also result from excessive pre-pumping of the monitoring well. Stratification of the leachate concentration in the ground water formation may occur, or heavier-than-water compounds may sink to the lower portions of the aquifer. Excessive pumping can dilute or increase the contaminant concentrations from what is representative of the sampling point of interest.

### 4.3 Materials

Materials of construction for samplers and evacuation equipment (bladders, pump, bailers, tubing, etc.) should be limited to stainless steel, Teflon<sup>®</sup>, and glass in areas where concentrations are expected to be at or near the detection limit. The tendency of organics to leach into and out of many materials make the selection of materials critical for trace analyses. The use of plastics, such as PVC or polyethylene, should be avoided when analyzing for organics. However, PVC may be used for evacuation equipment as it will not come in contact with the sample, and in highly contaminated wells, disposable equipment (i.e., polypropylene bailers) may be appropriate to avoid cross-contamination.

Materials of construction (bladders/ pumps, bailers, tubing, etc.) suitable for collecting and handling Volatile Organic Samples should be limited to stainless steel, Teflon and glass in areas which detection limit range concentrations are expected. The tendency of organics to leach into and out of many materials, make the selection of materials critical for these trace analyses. The use of plastics, e.g., PVC etc., should be avoided. There are numerous ways of introducing foreign contaminants into a sample, and these must be avoided by following strict sampling procedures and utilization of trained personnel.

### 4.4 Advantages/Disadvantages of Certain Equipment

#### 4.4.1 Bailers

Advantages

- C Only practical limitations on size and materials
- C No power source needed
- C Portable
- C Inexpensive, so it can be dedicated and hung in a well, thereby reducing the chances of cross contamination
- C Minimal outgassing of volatile organics while sample is in bailer
- C Readily available
- C Removes stagnant water first
- C Rapid, simple method for removing small volumes of purge water

Disadvantages

- C Time-consuming to flush a large well of stagnant water
- C Transfer of sample may cause aeration
- C Stoppers at the bottom of the bailer usually leak thus the bailer must be brought to the surface rapidly
- C If the bailer is allowed to hit the bottom of the well boring, gravel can displace the ball valve not allowing the bailer to hold water

#### 4.4.2 Submersible Pumps

Advantages

- C Portable and can be transported to several wells
- C Depending upon the size of the pump and the pumping depths, relatively high pumping rates are possible
- C Generally very reliable and does not require priming

Disadvantages

- C Potential for effects on analysis of trace organics
- C Heavy and cumbersome to deal with, particularly in deeper wells
- C Expensive
- C Power source needed
- C Sediment in water may cause problems with the pumps
- C Impractical in low yielding or shallow wells

#### 4.4.3 Non-Contact Gas Bladder Pumps

##### Advantages

- C Maintains integrity of sample
- C Easy to use
- C Can sample from discrete locations within the monitor well

##### Disadvantages

- C Difficulty in cleaning, though dedicated tubing and bladder may be used
- C Only useful to about 100 feet
- C Supply of gas for operation, gas bottles and/or compressors are often difficult to obtain and are cumbersome
- C Relatively low pumping rates
- C Requires air compressor or pressurized gas source and control box

#### 4.4.4 Suction Pumps

##### Advantages

- C Portable, inexpensive, and readily available

##### Disadvantages

- C Restricted to areas with water levels within 20 to 25 feet of the ground surface

- C Vacuum can cause loss of dissolved gasses and volatile organics

- C Pump must be primed and vacuum is often difficult to maintain during initial stages of pumping

#### 4.4.5 Inertia Pumps

##### Advantages

- C Portable, inexpensive, and readily available
- C Offers a rapid method for purging relatively shallow wells

##### Disadvantages

- C Restricted to areas with water levels within 70 feet of the ground surface
- C May be time consuming to purge wells with these manual pumps
- C Labor intensive
- C WaTerra pumps are only effective in 2-inch diameter wells

## 5.0 EQUIPMENT APPARATUS

### 5.1 Equipment Checklist

#### 5.1.1 General

- C Water level indicator
  - electric sounder
  - steel tape
  - transducer
  - reflection sounder
  - airline
- C Depth sounder
- C Appropriate keys for well cap locks
- C Steel brush
- C HNU or OVA (whichever is most appropriate)
- C Logbook
- C Calculator
- C Field data sheets and samples labels
- C Chain of custody records and seals
- C Sample containers
- C Engineer's rule

- C Sharp knife (locking blade)
- C Tool box (to include at least: screwdrivers, pliers, hacksaw, hammer, flashlight, adjustable wrench)
- C Leather work gloves
- C Appropriate Health & Safety gear
- C 5-gallon pail
- C Plastic sheeting
- C Shipping containers
- C Packing materials
- C Bolt cutters
- C Ziploc plastic bags
- C Containers for evacuation liquids
- C Decontamination solutions
- C Tap water
- C Non phosphate soap
- C Several brushes
- C Pails or tubs
- C Aluminum foil
- C Garden sprayer
- C Preservatives
- C Distilled or deionized water
- C Fire extinguisher (if using a generator for your power source)

#### 5.1.2 Bailers

- C Clean, decontaminated bailers of appropriate size and construction material
- C Nylon line, enough to dedicate to each well
- C Teflon coated bailer wire
- C Sharp knife
- C Aluminum foil (to wrap clean bailers)
- C Five gallon bucket

#### 5.1.3 Submersible Pump

- C Pump(s)
- C Generator (110, 120, or 240 volt) or 12 volt battery if inaccessible to field vehicle - amp meter is useful
- C 1" black PVC coil tubing - enough to dedicate to each well
- C Hose clamps
- C Safety cable
- C Tool box supplement
  - pipe wrenches
  - wire strippers
  - electrical tape
  - heat shrink
  - hose connectors
  - Teflon tape

- C Winch, pulley or hoist
- C Gasoline for generator/gas can
- C Flow meter with gate valve
- C 1" nipples and various plumbing (i.e., pipe connectors)
- C Control box (if necessary)

#### 5.1.4 Non-Gas Contact Bladder Pump

- C Non-gas contact bladder pump
- C Compressor or nitrogen gas tank
- C Batteries and charger
- C Teflon tubing - enough to dedicate to each well
- C Swagelock fitting
- C Toolbox supplements - same as submersible pump
- C Control box (if necessary)

#### 5.1.5 Suction Pump

- C Pump
- C 1" black PVC coil tubing - enough to dedicate to each well
- C Gasoline - if required
- C Toolbox
- C Plumbing fittings
- C Flow meter with gate valve

#### 5.1.6 Inertia Pump

- C Pump assembly (WaTerra pump, piston pump)
- C Five gallon bucket

## 6.0 REAGENTS

Reagents may be utilized for preservation of samples and for decontamination of sampling equipment. The preservatives required are specified by the analysis to be performed. Decontamination solutions are specified in ERT SOP #2006, Sampling Equipment Decontamination.

## 7.0 PROCEDURE

### 7.1 Preparation

1. Determine the extent of the sampling effort, the sampling methods to be employed, and the types and amounts of equipment and

supplies needed (i.e., diameter and depth of wells to be sampled).

2. Obtain necessary sampling and monitoring equipment, appropriate to type of contaminant being investigated. For collection of volatile organic samples, refer to the work plan to ensure that 40 mL glass sample vials with Teflon lined septa are ordered and in sufficient numbers. Check sampling supplies; field kit for chlorine, preservatives, Parafilm, foam sleeves and coolers. Due to extreme trace levels at which volatile organics are detectable, cross contamination and introduction of contaminants must be avoided. Trip blanks are incorporated into the shipment package to provide a check against cross contamination.
3. Decontaminate or preclean equipment, and ensure that it is in working order.
4. Prepare scheduling and coordinate with staff, clients, and regulatory agency, if appropriate.
5. Perform a general site survey prior to site entry in accordance with the site specific Health and Safety Plan.
6. Identify and mark all sampling locations.

## **7.2 Field Preparation**

1. Start at the least contaminated well, if known.
2. Lay plastic sheeting around the well to minimize likelihood of contamination of equipment from soil adjacent to the well.
3. Remove locking well cap, note location, time of day, and date in field notebook or appropriate log form.
4. Remove well casing cap.
5. Screen headspace of well with an appropriate monitoring instrument to determine the presence of volatile organic compounds and record in site logbook.
6. Lower water level measuring device or

equivalent (i.e., permanently installed transducers or airline) into well until water surface is encountered.

7. Measure distance from water surface to reference measuring point on well casing or protective barrier post and record in site logbook. Alternatively, if no reference point, note that water level measurement is from top of steel casing, top of PVC riser pipe, from ground surface, or some other position on the well head.

If floating organics are of concern, this can be determined by measuring the water level with an oil/water interface probe which measures floating organics.

8. Measure total depth of well (at least twice to confirm measurement) and record in site logbook or on field data sheet.
9. Calculate the volume of water in the well and the volume to be purged using the calculations in Section 8.0.
10. Select the appropriate purging and sampling equipment.
11. If residual chlorine is suspected, use the Hach Field Test Kit for chlorine to determine if there is residual chlorine in the water to be sampled. If there is, treat the sample vial with a crystal of sodium thiosulfate prior to sample collection.

### **7.3 Purging**

The amount of flushing a well receives prior to sample collection depends on the intent of the monitoring program as well as the hydrogeologic conditions. Programs where overall quality determination of water resources are involved may require long pumping periods to obtain a sample that is representative of a large volume of that aquifer. The pumped volume can be determined prior to sampling so that the sample is collected after a known volume of the water is evacuated from the aquifer, or the well can be pumped until the stabilization of parameters such as temperature, electrical conductance, pH, or turbidity has occurred.

However, monitoring for defining a contaminant plume requires a representative sample of a small volume of the aquifer. These circumstances require that the well be pumped enough to remove the stagnant water but not enough to induce flow from other areas. Generally, three well volumes are considered effective, or calculations can be made to determine, on the basis of the aquifer parameters and well dimensions, the appropriate volume to remove prior to sampling.

During purging, water level measurements may be taken regularly at 15-30 second intervals. This data may be used to compute aquifer transmissivity and other hydraulic characteristics. The following well evacuation devices are most commonly used. Other evacuation devices are available, but have been omitted in this discussion due to their limited use.

### 7.3.1 Bailers

Bailers are the simplest purging device used and have many advantages. They generally consist of a rigid length of tube, usually with a ball check-valve at the bottom. A line is used to lower the bailer into the well and retrieve a volume of water. The three most common types of bailer are PVC, Teflon, and stainless steel.

This manual method of purging is best suited to shallow or narrow diameter wells. For deep, larger diameter wells which require evacuation of large volumes of water, other mechanical devices may be more appropriate.

#### 7.3.1.1 Operation

Equipment needed will include a clean decontaminated bailer, Teflon or nylon line, a sharp knife, and plastic sheeting.

1. Determine the volume of water to be purged as described in 8.0, calculations.
2. Lay plastic sheeting around the well to prevent contamination of the bailer line with foreign materials.
3. Attach the line to the bailer and slowly lower until the bailer is completely submerged, being careful not to drop the bailer to the water, causing turbulence and the possible loss of volatile organic contaminants.
4. Pull bailer out ensuring that the line either falls onto a clean area of plastic sheeting or never touches the ground.
5. Empty the bailer into a pail until full to determine the number of bails necessary to achieve the required purge volume.
6. Thereafter, pour the water into a container and dispose of purge waters as specified in the site specific sampling plan.

### 7.3.2 Submersible Pumps

The use of submersible pumps for sample collection is permissible provided they are constructed of suitably noncontaminating materials. The chief

drawback, however, is the difficulty avoiding cross-contamination between wells. Although some units can be disassembled easily to allow surfaces contacted by contaminants to be cleaned, field decontamination may be difficult and require solvents that can affect sample analysis. The use of submersible pumps in multiple well-sampling programs, therefore, should be carefully considered against other sampling mechanisms (bailers, bladder pumps). In most cases, a sample can be collected by bailer after purging with a submersible pump, however, submersible pumps may be the only practical sampling device for extremely deep wells (greater than 300 feet of water). Under those conditions, dedicated pump systems should be installed to eliminate the potential for cross-contamination of well samples.

Submersible pumps generally use one of two types of power supplies, either electric or compressed gas or air. Electric powered pumps can run off a 12 volt DC rechargeable battery, or a 110 or 220 volt AC power supply. Those units powered by compressed air normally use a small electric or gas-powered air compressor. They may also utilize compressed gas (i.e., nitrogen) from bottles. Different size pumps are available for different depth or diameter monitoring wells.

#### 7.3.2.1 Operation

1. Determine the volume of water to be purged as described in 8.0 Calculations.
2. Lay plastic sheeting around the well to prevent contamination of pumps, hoses or lines with foreign materials.
3. Assemble pump, hoses and safety cable, and lower the pump into the well. Make sure the pump is deep enough so all the water is not evacuated. (Running the pump without water may cause damage.)
4. Attach flow meter to the outlet hose to measure the volume of water purged.
5. Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) or ground the generator to avoid possible electric shock.
6. Attach power supply, and purge the well until the specified volume of water has been



evacuated (or until field parameters, such as temperature, pH, conductivity, etc, have stabilized). Do not allow the pump to run dry. If the pumping rate exceeds the well recharge rate, lower the pump further into the well, and continue pumping.

2. Procedure for purging with a suction pump is exactly the same as for a submersible pump (Section 7.3.2.1).

7. Collect and dispose of purge waters as specified in the site specific sampling plan.

### 7.3.3 Non-Contact Gas Bladder Pumps

For this procedure, an all stainless-steel and Teflon Middleburg-squeeze bladder pump (e.g., IEA, TIMCO, Well Wizard, Geoguard, and others) is used to provide the least amount of material interference to the sample (Barcelona, 1985). Water comes into contact with the inside of the bladder (Teflon) and the sample tubing, also Teflon, that may be dedicated to each well. Some wells may have permanently installed bladder pumps, (i.e., Well Wizard, Geoguard), that will be used to sample for all parameters.

#### 7.3.3.1 Operation

1. Assemble Teflon tubing, pump and charged control box.
2. Procedure for purging with a bladder pump is the same as for a submersible pump (Section 7.3.2.1).
3. Be sure to adjust flow rate to prevent violent jolting of the hose as sample is drawn in.

### 7.3.4 Suction Pumps

There are many different types of suction pumps. They include: centrifugal, peristaltic and diaphragm. Diaphragm pumps can be used for well evacuation at a fast pumping rate and sampling at a low pumping rate. The peristaltic pump is a low volume pump that uses rollers to squeeze the flexible tubing thereby creating suction. This tubing can be dedicated to a well to prevent cross contamination. Peristaltic pumps, however, require a power source.

#### 7.3.4.1 Operation

1. Assembly of the pump, tubing, and power source if necessary.

### 7.3.5 Inertia Pumps

Inertia pumps such as the WaTerra pump and piston pump, are manually operated. They are most appropriate to use when wells are too deep to bail by hand, or too shallow or narrow (or inaccessible) to warrant an automatic (submersible, etc.) pump. These pumps are made of plastic and may be either decontaminated or discarded.

#### 7.3.5.1 Operation

1. Determine the volume of water to be purged as described in 8.0, Calculations.
2. Lay plastic sheeting around the well to prevent contamination of pumps or hoses with foreign materials.
3. Assemble pump and lower to the appropriate depth in the well.
4. Begin pumping manually, discharging water into a 5 gallon bucket (or other graduated vessel). Purge until specified volume of water has been evacuated (or until field parameters such as temperature, pH, conductivity, etc. have stabilized).
5. Collect and dispose of purge waters as specified in the site specific project plan.

## 7.4 Sampling

Sample withdrawal methods require the use of pumps, compressed air, bailers, and samplers. Ideally, purging and sample withdrawal equipment should be completely inert, economical to manufacture, easily cleaned, sterilized, reusable, able to operate at remote sites in the absence of power resources, and capable of delivering variable rates for sample collection.

There are several factors to take into consideration when choosing a sampling device. Care should be taken when reviewing the advantages or disadvantages of any one device. It may be appropriate to use a different device to sample than that which was used to purge. The most common example of this is the use of a submersible pump to purge and a bailer to sample.

### 7.4.1 Bailers

The positive-displacement volatile sampling bailer is perhaps the most appropriate for collection of water samples for volatile analysis. Other bailer types (messenger, bottom fill, etc.) are less desirable, but may be mandated by cost and site conditions.

#### 7.4.1.1 Operation

1. Surround the monitor well with clean plastic sheeting. If using the GPI bailer, insert a vial into the claim and assemble the unit.
2. Attach a line to a clean decontaminated bailer.
3. Lower the bailer slowly and gently into the well, taking care not to shake the casing sides or to splash the bailer into the water. Stop lowering at a point adjacent to the screen.
4. Allow bailer to fill and then slowly and gently retrieve the bailer from the well avoiding contact with the casing, so as not to knock flakes of rust or other foreign materials into the bailer. If using the GPI bailer for collecting volatile organic samples, once at the surface, remove the bailer from the cable. Carefully open the GPI bailer unit and remove the vial. Begin slowly pouring from the bailer, and collect the duplicate samples from the midstream sample.
5. Remove the cap from the sample container and place it on the plastic sheet or in a location where it won't become contaminated. See Section 7.7 for special considerations on VOA samples.
6. Begin slowly pouring from the bailer.
7. Filter and preserve samples as required by sampling plan.
8. Cap the sample container tightly and place pre-labeled sample container in a carrier.
9. Replace the well cap.
10. Log all samples in the site logbook and on field data sheets and label all samples.
11. Package samples and complete necessary

paperwork.

12. Transport sample to decontamination zone for preparation for transport to analytical laboratory.

## 7.4.2 Submersible Pumps

Although it is recommended that samples not be collected with a submersible pump due to the reasons stated in Section 4.4.2, there are some situations where they may be used.

### 7.4.2.1 Operation

1. Allow the monitor well to recharge after purging, keeping the pump just above screened section.
2. Attach gate valve to hose (if not already fitted), and reduce flow of water to a manageable sampling rate.
3. Assemble the appropriate bottles.
4. If no gate valve is available, run the water down the side of a clean jar and fill the sample bottles from the jar.
5. Cap the sample container tightly and place prelabeled sample container in a carrier.
6. Replace the well cap.
7. Log all samples in the site logbook and on the field data sheets and label all samples.
8. Package samples and complete necessary paperwork.
9. Transport sample to decontamination zone for preparation for transport to the analytical laboratory.
10. Upon completion, remove pump and assembly and fully decontaminate prior to setting into the next sample well. Dedicate the tubing to the hole.

## 7.4.3 Non-Contact Gas Bladder Pumps

The use of a non-contact gas positive displacement

bladder pump is often mandated by the use of dedicated pumps installed in wells. These pumps are also suitable for shallow (less than 100 feet) wells. They are somewhat difficult to clean, but may be used with dedicated sample tubing to avoid cleaning. These pumps require a power supply and a compressed gas supply (or compressor). They may be operated at variable flow and pressure rates making them ideal for both purging and sampling.

Barcelona (1984) and Nielsen (1985) report that the non-contact gas positive displacement pumps cause the least amount of alteration in sample integrity as compared to other sample retrieval methods.

### 7.4.3.1 Operation

1. Allow well to recharge after purging.
2. Assemble the appropriate bottles.
3. Turn pump on, increase the cycle time and reduce the pressure to the minimum that will allow the sample to come to the surface.
4. Cap the sample container tightly and place prelabeled sample container in a carrier.
5. Replace the well cap.
6. Log all samples in the site logbook and on field data sheets and label all samples.
7. Package samples and complete necessary paperwork.
8. Transport sample to decontamination zone for preparation for transport to analytical laboratory.
9. On completion, remove the tubing from the well and either replace the Teflon tubing and bladder with new dedicated tubing and bladder or rigorously decontaminate the existing materials.
10. Nonfiltered samples shall be collected directly from the outlet tubing into the sample bottle.
11. For filtered samples, connect the pump outlet tubing directly to the filter unit. The pump

pressure should remain decreased so that the pressure build up on the filter does not blow out the pump bladder or displace the filter. For the Geotech barrel filter, no actual connections are necessary so this is not a concern.

#### 7.4.4 Suction Pumps

In view of the limitations of these type pumps, they are not recommended for sampling purposes.

#### 7.4.5 Inertia Pumps

Inertia pumps may be used to collect samples. It is more common, however, to purge with these pumps and sample with a bailer (Section 7.4.1).

##### 7.4.5.1 Operation

1. Following well evacuation, allow the well to recharge.
2. Assemble the appropriate bottles.
3. Since these pumps are manually operated, the flow rate may be regulated by the sampler. The sample may be discharged from the pump outlet directly into the appropriate sample container.
4. Cap the sample container tightly and place pre-labeled sample container in a carrier.
5. Replace the well cap.
6. Log all samples in the site logbook and on field data sheets and label all samples.
7. Package samples and complete necessary paperwork.
8. Transport sample to decontamination zone for preparation for transport to the analytical laboratory.
9. Upon completion, remove pump and decontaminate or discard, as appropriate.

#### 7.4.6. Sample Retrieval - Syringe

A limited number of commercial syringe type samplers are available, (IEA, TIMCO, etc.) some are homemade devices. These devices are claimed to provide good quality samples for volatile analysis, but are severely limited in sample volume and are specific to sampling for volatiles. Essentially, they operated with an evacuated chamber that is lowered down the well, and allowed to fill with the pressure of the water. The entire mechanism is then brought to the surface with the sample. The sample may then be transferred to a sample vial, or the entire unit may be sent as the sample container.

1. Evacuate the syringe if necessary, and lower the sampling device to just below the well screen.
2. Remove the constriction from the device and allow the sample to fill the syringe, apply slight suction as necessary.
3. Bring unit to the surface. If necessary, transfer the sample to vials, as outlined in steps 2 through 7 above.

#### 7.5 Filtering

For samples requiring filtering, such as total metals analysis, the filter must be decontaminated prior to and between uses. Filters work by two methods. A barrel filter such as the "Geotech" filter works with a bicycle pump, used to build up positive pressure in the chamber containing the sample which is then forced through the filter paper (minimum size 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$ ) into a jar placed underneath. The barrel itself is filled manually from the bailer or directly via the hose of the sampling pump. The pressure must be maintained up to 30 lbs/in<sup>2</sup> by periodic pumping.

A vacuum type filter involves two chambers; the upper chamber contains the sample and a filter (minimum size 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$ ) divides the chambers. Using a hand pump or a Gilian type pump, air is withdrawn from the lower chamber, creating a vacuum and thus causing the sample to move through the filter into the lower chamber where it is drained into a sample jar. Repeated pumping may be required to drain all the sample into the lower chamber. If preservation of the sample is necessary, this should be done after filtering.

#### 7.6 Post Operation

After all samples are collected and preserved, the sampling equipment should be decontaminated prior to sampling another well to prevent cross-contamination of equipment and monitor wells between locations.

1. Decontaminate all equipment.
2. Replace sampling equipment in storage containers.
3. Prepare and transport ground water samples to the laboratory. Check sample documentation and make sure samples are properly packed for shipment.

### 7.7 Special Considerations for VOA Sampling

The proper collection of a sample for volatile organics requires minimal disturbance of the sample to limit volatilization and therefore a loss of volatiles from the sample.

Sample retrieval systems suitable for the valid collection of volatile organic samples are: positive displacement bladder pumps, gear driven submersible pumps, syringe samplers and bailers (Barcelona, 1984; Nielsen, 1985). Field conditions and other constraints will limit the choice of appropriate systems. The focus of concern must be to provide a valid sample for analysis, one which has been subjected to the least amount of turbulence possible.

The following procedures should be followed:

1. Open the vial, set cap in a clean place, and collect the sample during the middle of the cycle. When collecting duplicates, collect both samples at the same time.
2. Fill the vial to just overflowing. Do not rinse the vial, nor excessively overflow it. There should be a convex meniscus on the top of the vial.
3. Check that the cap has not been contaminated (splashed) and carefully cap the vial. Place the cap directly over the top and screw down firmly. Do not overtighten and break the cap.

4. Invert the vial and tap gently. Observe vial for at least ten (10) seconds. If an air bubble appears, discard the sample and begin again. It is imperative that no entrapped air is in the sample vial.
5. Immediately place the vial in the protective foam sleeve and place into the cooler, oriented so that it is lying on its side, not straight up.
6. The holding time for VOAs is seven days. Samples should be shipped or delivered to the laboratory daily so as not to exceed the holding time. Ensure that the samples remain at 4°C, but do not allow them to freeze.

### 8.0 CALCULATIONS

If it is necessary to calculate the volume of the well, utilize the following equation:

$$\text{Well volume} = \pi r^2 h \text{ (cf)} \quad [\text{Equation 1}]$$

where:

- $\pi$  = pi
- $r$  = radius of monitoring well (feet)
- $h$  = height of the water column (feet)  
[This may be determined by subtracting the depth to water from the total depth of the well as measured from the same reference point.]
- $cf$  = conversion factor (gal/ft<sup>3</sup>) = 7.48 gal/ft<sup>3</sup> [In this equation, 7.48 gal/ft<sup>3</sup> is the necessary conversion factor.]

Monitor well diameters are typically 2", 3", 4", or 6". Knowing the diameter of the monitor well, there are a number of standard conversion factors which can be used to simplify the equation above.

The volume, in gallons per linear foot, for various standard monitor well diameters can be calculated as follows:

$$v(\text{gal/ft}) = \pi r^2 \text{ (cf)} \quad [\text{Equation 2}]$$

where:

$n$  = pi  
 $r$  = radius of monitoring well (feet)  
 $cf$  = conversion factor (7.48 gal/ft<sup>3</sup>)

For a 2" diameter well, the volume per linear foot can be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{volume per linear ft} &= \pi r^2 (cf) && \text{[Equation 2]} \\ &= 3.14 (1/12 \text{ ft})^2 \cdot 7.48 \text{ gal/ft}^3 \\ &= 0.1632 \text{ gal/ft} \end{aligned}$$

Remember that if you have a 2" diameter well, you must convert this to the radius in feet to be able to use the equation.

The conversion factors for the common size monitor wells are as follows:

Well diameter	2"	3"	4"	6"
Volume (gal/ft.)	0.1632	0.3672	0.6528	1.4688

If you utilize the conversion factors above, Equation 1 should be modified as follows:

$$\text{Well volume} = (h)(cf) \quad \text{[Equation 3]}$$

where:

$h$  = height of water column (feet)  
 $cf$  = the conversion factor calculated from Equation 2

The well volume is typically tripled to determine the volume to be purged.

## 9.0 QUALITY ASSURANCE/ QUALITY CONTROL

There are no specific quality assurance (QA) activities which apply to the implementation of these procedures. However, the following general QA procedures apply:

1. All data must be documented on field data sheets or within site logbooks.
2. All instrumentation must be operated in accordance with operating instructions as supplied by the manufacturer, unless otherwise specified in the work plan. Equipment checkout and calibration activities must occur prior to sampling/operation and they must be documented.
3. The collection of rinsate blanks is recommended to evaluate potential for cross contamination from the purging and/or sampling equipment.
4. Trip blanks are required if analytical parameters include VOAs.

## **10.0 DATA VALIDATION**

This section is not applicable to this SOP.

## **11.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

When working with potentially hazardous materials, follow U.S. EPA, OSHA or REAC health and safety guidelines. More specifically, depending upon the site specific contaminants, various protective programs must be implemented prior to sampling the first well. The site health and safety plan should be reviewed with specific emphasis placed on the protection program planned for the well sampling tasks. Standard safe operating practices should be followed such as minimizing contact with potential contaminants in both the vapor phase and liquid matrix through the use of respirators and disposable clothing.

When working around volatile organic contaminants:

1. Avoid breathing constituents venting from the well.
2. Pre-survey the well head-space with an FID/PID prior to sampling.
3. If monitoring results indicate organic constituents, sampling activities may be conducted in Level C protection. At a minimum, skin protection will be afforded by disposable protective clothing.

Physical hazards associated with well sampling:

1. Lifting injuries associated with pump and bailers retrieval; moving equipment.
2. Use of pocket knives for cutting discharge hose.
3. Heat/cold stress as a result of exposure to extreme temperatures and protective clothing.
4. Slip, trip, fall conditions as a result of pump discharge.
5. Restricted mobility due to the wearing of protective clothing.

6. Electrical shock associated with use of submersible pumps is possible. Use a GFCI or a copper grounding stake to avoid this problem.

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