

KANSAS



Department of Health and Environment

Environmental Quality Facts Plugging Dug Water Wells

An abandoned water well is:

- 1) A well that has been permanently taken out of use.
- 2) A well that is in such a state of disrepair that using it for any purpose is impractical.
- 3) A well that is either a physical hazard or threatens to contaminate or pollute groundwater aquifers.

All abandoned water wells which are contaminating or threatening to contaminate groundwater aquifers are required to be plugged in accord with K.S.A. 82a-1213. Water wells which are in good repair but are not being utilized presently may be put on "inactive status" if the well is to be used sometime in the near future. A request for placing the well on inactive status (Form WWC-6) needs to be filed with the department in accord with K.A.R. 28-30-7(f).

The well needs to be kept in good repair and maintained so that surface water flows away from the well and does not seep into the ground along the outside of the well casing or well wall. The well casing or wall should be sealed at the surface so it is air- and watertight to prevent any surface water or animals from entering the well.

If the water well will not be used at anytime in the near future, it needs to be permanently plugged by the landowner or a Kansas licensed water well contractor. The plugging of dug water wells should be accomplished by using the following method:

- 1) Measure the water level in the well with a weighted tape measure or string.

- 2) Pour approximately two gallons of chlorine bleach into the well to properly disinfect it.
- 3) Knock down the top 5 feet of the well wall material and let it fall inside the well.
- 4) Fill the well with sand and gravel to the water level which was measured in Step 1 above. Use the weighted string or tape measure to determine when enough sand and gravel have been added.
- 5) Fill in the remaining open space with compacted natural clay or approved grout to a depth of 5 feet below ground surface.
- 6) Use approved cement or sodium bentonite and sodium bentonite grouting material to fill the well from 5 feet to 4-1/2 feet below ground surface.
- 7) After a proper amount of time to allow for the curing of the grouting material, back fill the remaining part of the well with surface soils all the way to the surface.

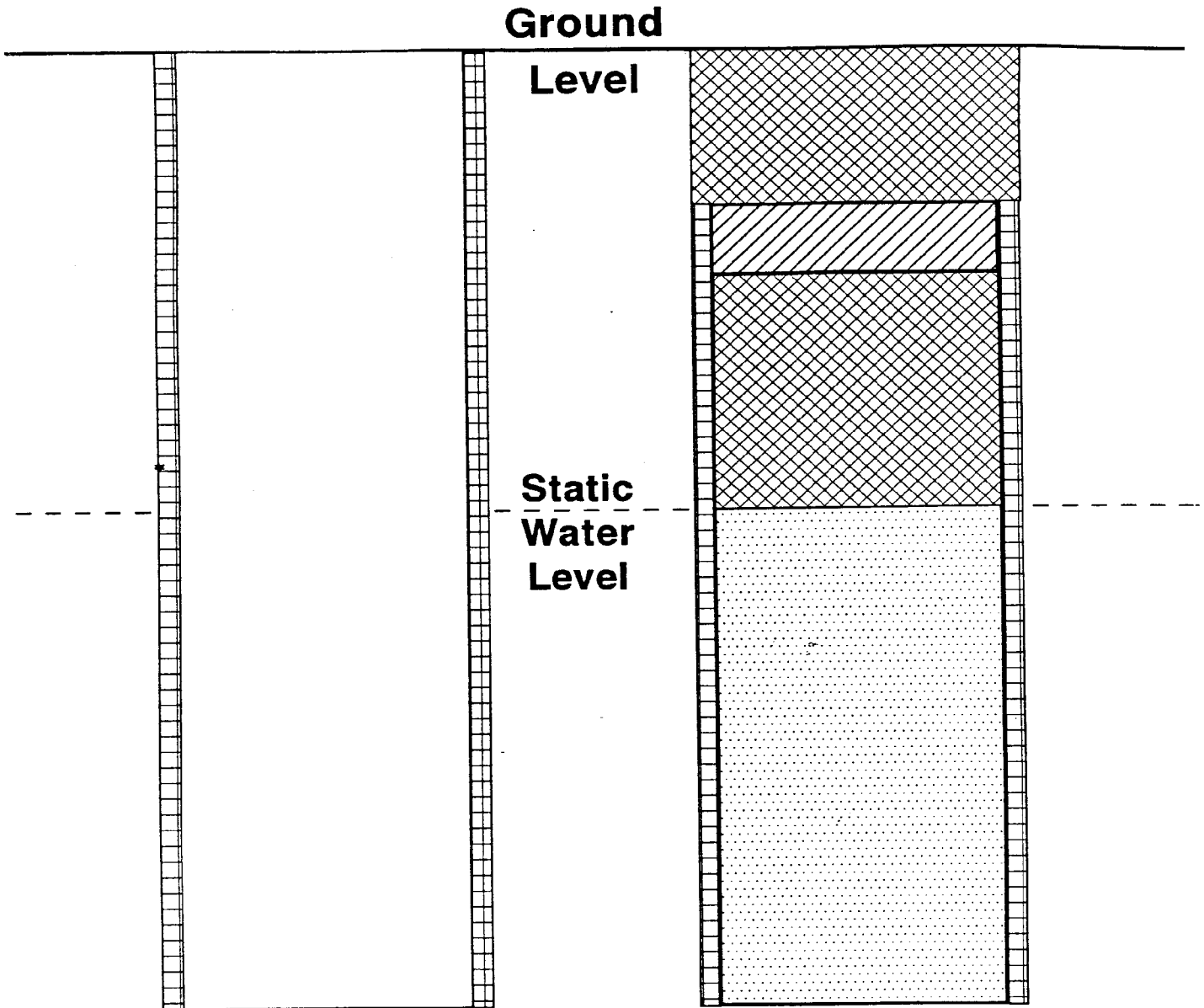
A record of the plugging of the well is required in accord with K. S.A. 82a-1212. Plugging record (Form WWC-5) must be filed with the KDHE office in Topeka within thirty (30) days following the completion of the above plugging procedures.

If you have any questions pertaining to any of the specifics of the procedures, feel free to contact the department at (785) 296-5522. Office hours are between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

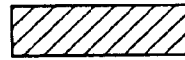
Plugging of a Dug Well

BEFORE

AFTER



Clay



Grout



Sand & Gravel



Brick or Rock