



Ohio Administrative Code

Rule 3745-9-09 Well development and pumping test.

Effective: September 1, 2022

(A) A public water system well shall be developed upon completion to remove the native silts and clays, drilling mud or finer fraction of the filter pack until turbidity or sand content in the well is minimal.

(1) Mechanical development shall be performed so as not to cause damage to the components of the well. Mechanical development techniques include: mechanical surging; air surging or air lifting; overpumping and backwashing; high velocity jetting; bailing; and hydrofracturing.

(2) With prior consultation with the district office, chemical development procedures may be used in conjunction with mechanical procedures. Chemical development techniques include use of an acid or dispersant that has standard ANSI/NSF 60 certification. The director may require submission of chemical development procedures with specifications for the method, equipment, chemicals, and testing for residual chemicals.

(a) Dispersants that contain phosphorous compounds shall not be used during the development of a well.

(b) Dispersant may be used to disaggregate clay particles to enhance removal. Dispersant shall be immediately flushed from the well and aquifer to prevent bacterial growth in the aquifer.

(c) Dispersant shall be premixed and used according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

(d) Acid shall be used according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Proper pH shall be maintained in the borehole to ensure the effective action of the acid.

(B) A pumping test shall be conducted upon completion of development of the public water system well and conform to the following:



(1) Be used to calculate the specific capacity of the well at the anticipated permanent design pumping rate for all high use wells intended to serve as a source to a community public water system.

(2) Be used to demonstrate that the well can supply water at the anticipated permanent design pumping rate while at a minimum maintaining the operational capacity of the well field and without degrading the water quality of any well in the well field.

(3) The determination of a permanent design pumping rate for a new public water system well shall include analysis of the effects of interference drawdown from other wells owned by the public water system as well as other high capacity wells not owned by the public water system. Operational practices and the potential to cause degradation of water quality at the well field should also be considered when establishing a permanent design pumping rate for a new public water system well.

(4) The pumping test classification is determined from the estimated average daily water demand of the well and type of water system, as illustrated in the following table. Estimated average daily water demand may be determined by the director from the design pumping rate of the well. With prior consultation, the director may accept an alternative constant rate pumping test that is conducted under the supervision of a qualified ground water professional or person with demonstrated competency in performing pumping or aquifer tests.

Pumping Test Classification	Estimated Average Daily Demand of the Well (gallons per day)
Low use	0 to 10000
Medium use	10001 to 100000
High use	greater than 100000

Acceptable pumping tests for low, medium and high use classifications are as follows:

(a) For low or medium use wells, the pumping test shall be conducted at a constant rate for a period of at least normal operation either at the peak hourly demand, or at least 1.5 times the anticipated permanent design pumping rate, whichever is greater. If the well cannot sustain peak hourly demand, the pumping test shall be conducted at a minimum of 1.5 times the anticipated design



pumping rate. For a community water system well, the duration of the constant rate pumping test shall be no less than twenty-four hours.

(b) For all high use wells, a step-drawdown test shall be conducted, followed by a constant rate pumping test.

(i) The step-drawdown test shall be used to obtain sufficient hydrogeologic information to design an appropriate constant rate pumping test for the well. The step-drawdown test shall, at a minimum conform to the following:

(A) Consist of three or more steps of progressively increasing pumping rates.

(B) One step shall be performed at the anticipated permanent design pumping rate.

(C) Each step shall be of approximately equal duration.

(D) Each step shall be performed at a constant pumping rate for no less than forty-five minutes.

(ii) The constant rate pumping test shall be conducted for at least twenty-four hours at a pumping rate of at least 1.5 times the anticipated permanent design pumping rate. The constant rate pumping test shall not commence until the water level has recovered to at least ninety per cent of the drawdown caused by the step-drawdown test or twenty-four hours after the completion of the step-drawdown test, whichever comes first.

(c) The public water system shall consult with the Ohio environmental protection agency to determine if the constant rate pumping test will need to extend beyond twenty-four hours if any of the following conditions exist at the time a new well site is proposed or can be expected to result from the well's operation:

(i) Pumping at the new well may cause interference with existing wells.

(ii) Prolonged pumping at the new well may cause changes in water quality.



(iii) The well will have special design criteria such as a radial collector well.

(iv) Information about the aquifer's response to pumping is needed for ground water modeling.

[Comment: If any of these conditions exist, the public water system should consult with a qualified ground water professional to design and implement a pumping test or tests which will address the noted condition.]

(d) For low, medium or high use wells, the constant rate pumping test may be conducted at a lower pumping rate if there is concern that pumping the well at 1.5 times the anticipated permanent pump design rate will be overly excessive, will not be possible, or will have adverse effects on the long-term performance of the well or aquifer. The test may be conducted at a lower pumping rate if the following criteria are met:

(i) The constant rate pumping test is conducted at no less than 1.2 times the pump design rate.

(ii) A demonstration is provided that supports the reasoning for a lower pumping rate that even under adverse conditions, including but not limited to severe drought, the well will likely be able to supply water at the anticipated permanent design pumping rate over the anticipated functional life of the well.

[Comment: If the permanent pump design rate will not be known until after the constant rate test, then the maximum permanent pump design rate will be based on back-calculation of the pumping rate used for the constant rate test. For example, if the constant rate test is performed at three hundred gallons per minute, the maximum permanent pump design rate will then be two hundred gallons per minute if the 1.5 times factor is used or two hundred and fifty gallons per minute if the 1.2 times factor is used.]

(5) The pumping test shall include the following:

(a) The flow rate shall be measured using an orifice weir with manometer, or equivalent method acceptable to the director.



(b) During a step-drawdown or constant rate pumping test, water level measurements shall be taken from the well starting with the static water level and continuing during drawdown to the nearest 0.1 foot, as measured from an identified datum.

(i) Water level measurements shall be at the following time intervals:

Time After Test Started (minutes)	Time Interval Between Measurements (minutes)
0 - 15	1
16 - 60	5
61 - 120	10
121 - 180	20
181 - 300	30
Greater than 300	60

(ii) Recovery water level measurements shall be taken immediately after termination of the constant rate pumping test at time intervals of five minutes for the first hour and every thirty minutes thereafter until the water level has recovered to at least ninety per cent of the drawdown caused by the pumping test, twenty-four hours after the completion of the pumping test, or recovery is interrupted by pumping of another well, whichever occurs first.

(iii) For high use wells, all pumping tests shall include water level measurements from observation or surrounding wells. An observation well shall be selected or sited such that the water level measurements obtained before, during and after the pumping test will, upon analysis, provide information about the aquifer's response to pumping. The selection or siting process shall consider the distance between the observation well and the pumping well, the type of aquifer from which water is being withdrawn, the hydraulic gradient and other aquifer characteristics.

(6) The well owner shall submit a report of the pumping tests with their results, interpretations and conclusions.

(a) The pumping test report shall include the following:



- (i) The date and times of starting through ending the pumping test.
 - (ii) A data table for each well used to observe the drawdown and recovery water level measurements, as required by paragraph (B)(5)(b) of this rule, showing the time after the pump test started and the corresponding water level measurements to the nearest 0.1 foot.
 - (iii) The height above ground (in feet) of the water level measurement reference point.
 - (iv) The pumping rate and depth at which the pump used for the test was set.
 - (v) The anticipated permanent pump setting depth (in feet below ground).
 - (vi) The specific capacity of the well at the tested pumping rates.
 - (vii) For high use wells only, the specific capacity of the well at the anticipated permanent design pumping rate after drawdown has stabilized.
- (b) In addition to paragraph (B)(6)(a) of this rule, the report for a high use well pumping test report shall include the following:
- (i) A map showing the location of the pumping wells and the location of other wells used to observe drawdown. The map shall, at a minimum, include the names of the wells as used in the report and the distance between the pumping well and other wells used to observe drawdown.
 - (ii) Graphs plotted on semi-logarithmic graph paper showing the drawdown measurements on the arithmetic scale and time on the logarithmic scale.
- Graphs must be submitted for the pumping well and any other wells used to observe drawdown and recovery during the pumping test.
- (iii) Graphs plotted on semi-logarithmic graph paper showing the recovery measurements on the arithmetic scale and time on the logarithmic scale.



Graphs must be submitted for the pumping well and any other wells used to observe drawdown and recovery during the pumping test.

(iv) Arithmetic graphs showing all water-level data collected during the pumping test and recovery period from the pumping well and all observation wells.

(c) In addition to paragraph (B)(6)(b) of this rule, when a high use community water system well is part of a multiple-well system the report shall include documentation that the well meets the demonstration requirements in paragraphs (B)(2) and (B)(3) of this rule.

(C) Samples shall be collected and analyzed from a public water system well for contaminants at the conclusion of the constant rate pumping test, performed in accordance with paragraph (B) of this rule, and prior to initiation of the recovery period.

(1) A community water system well shall be sampled and analyzed for the contaminants that are listed in appendix A of this rule, "Required Analyses for Wells Utilized by Community Public Water Systems."

(2) A nontransient noncommunity water system well shall be sampled and analyzed for the contaminants that are listed in appendix B of this rule, "Required Analyses for Wells Utilized by Nontransient Noncommunity Public Water Systems."

(3) A transient noncommunity water system well shall be sampled and analyzed for the contaminants that are listed in appendix C of this rule, "Required Analyses for Wells Utilized by Transient Noncommunity Public Water Systems."

(4) The director may reduce or add to the contaminants that are listed in the appendices to this rule because of well siting, well construction, treatment, promulgated drinking water standards, or other criteria to assess if the ground water is acceptable for human consumption.

(5) Samples that are collected from a public water system well in accordance with this rule shall be analyzed in a laboratory certified to analyze drinking water for contaminants in accordance with Chapter 3745-89 of the Administrative Code. The analytical methods shall be the same as required



by the entry point to the distribution system monitoring in accordance with rule 3745-81-27 of the Administrative Code and shall include all the volatile organic and synthetic organic analytes that are quantified by the laboratory for the organic analytical method. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) shall be analyzed using EPA Analytical Method 533 or EPA Method 537.1.

[Comment: For dates of non-regulatory government publications, publications of recognized organizations and associations, test methods, federal rules, and federal statutory provisions referenced in this rule, see paragraph (AA) of rule 3745-9-01 of the Administrative Code titled "Incorporation by reference."]