

# WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER WELL?

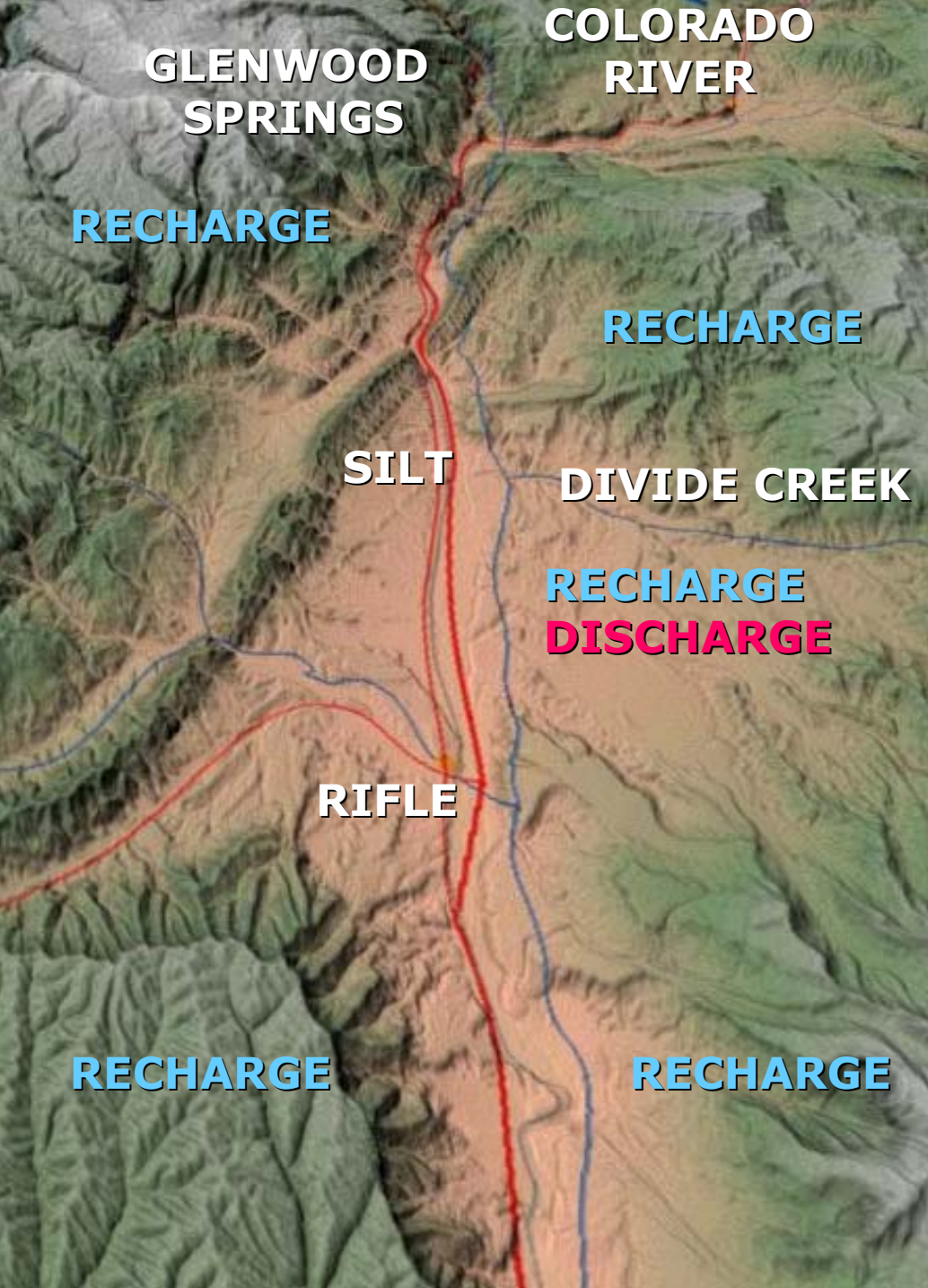


ANTHONY W. GORODY, PH.D., CPG-9798

# WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER WELL?

## INTERPRETING LABORATORY DATA

- WHERE DOES YOUR WATER COME FROM?
- WHAT CONSTITUENTS ARE DISSOLVED IN GROUNDWATER?
- WHAT FACTORS CONTROL THE CONCENTRATION OF DISSOLVED CONSTITUENTS?
- REGULAR MAINTENANCE OF YOUR WATER WELL
  - **WHAT TO LOOK FOR**
  - **WHAT TO DO**



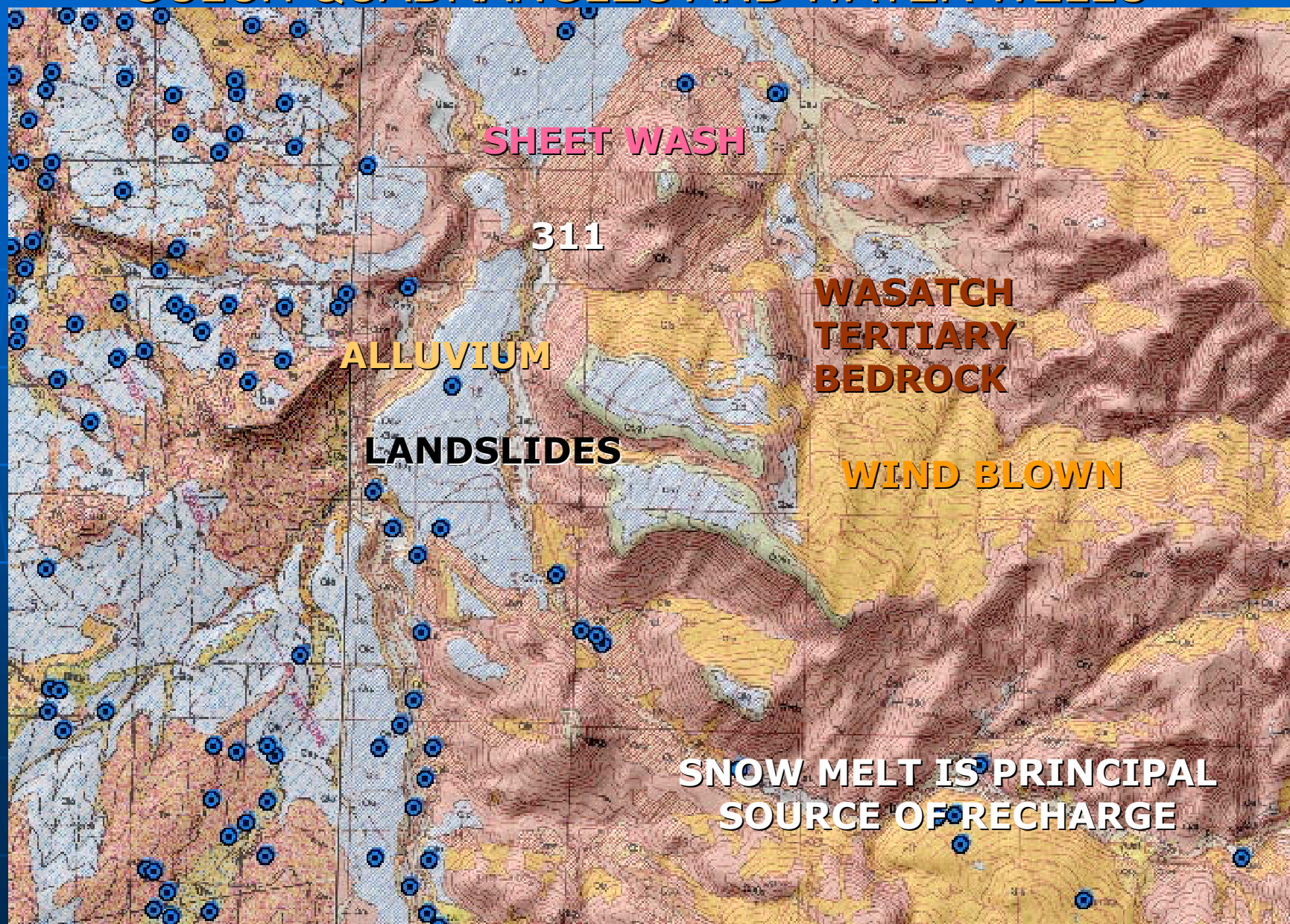
**WHERE DOES  
YOUR WATER  
COME FROM?**

## **PHYSIOGRAPHIC SETTING**

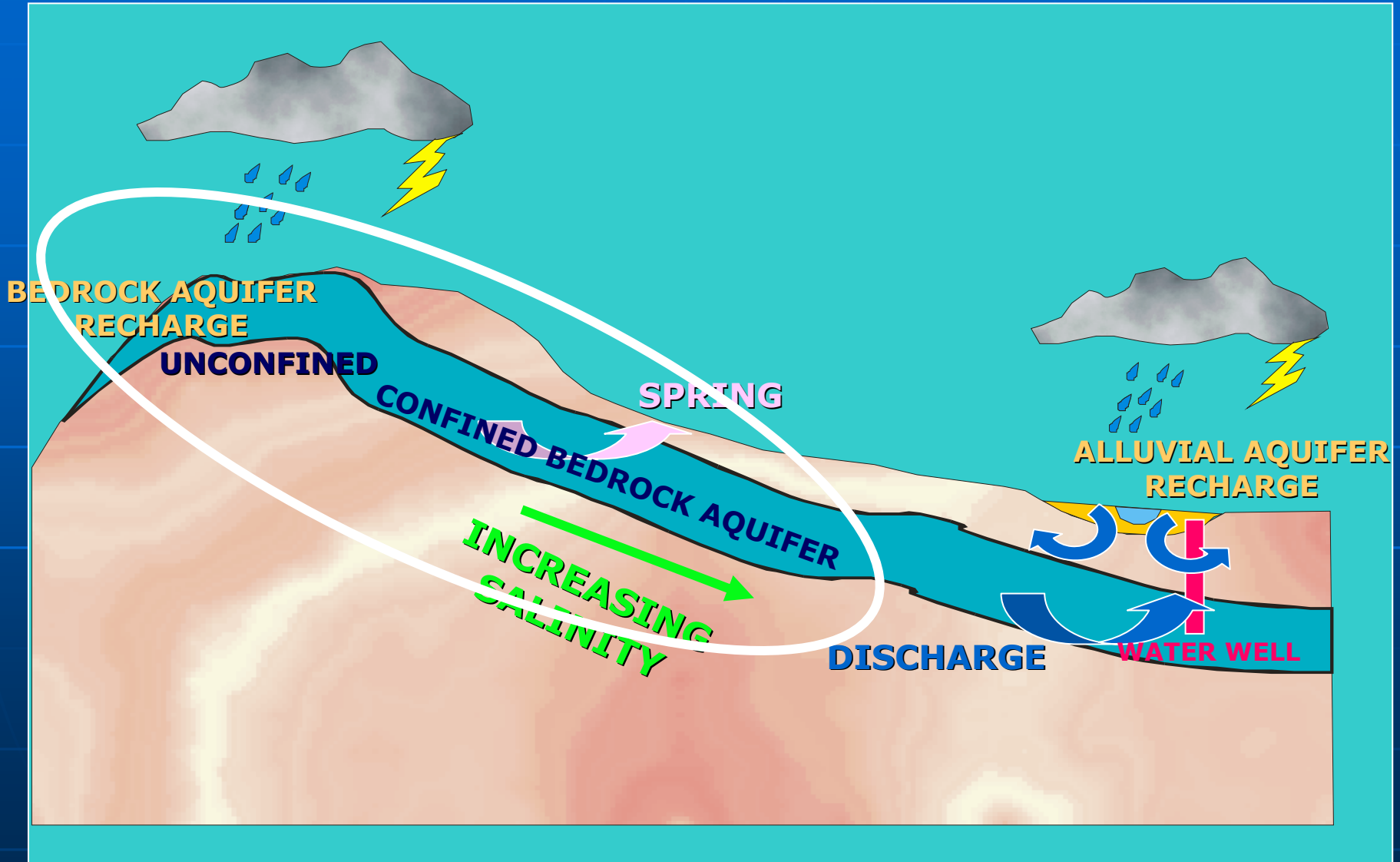
### **AQUIFERS TYPES**

- ALLUVIAL
- BEDROCK

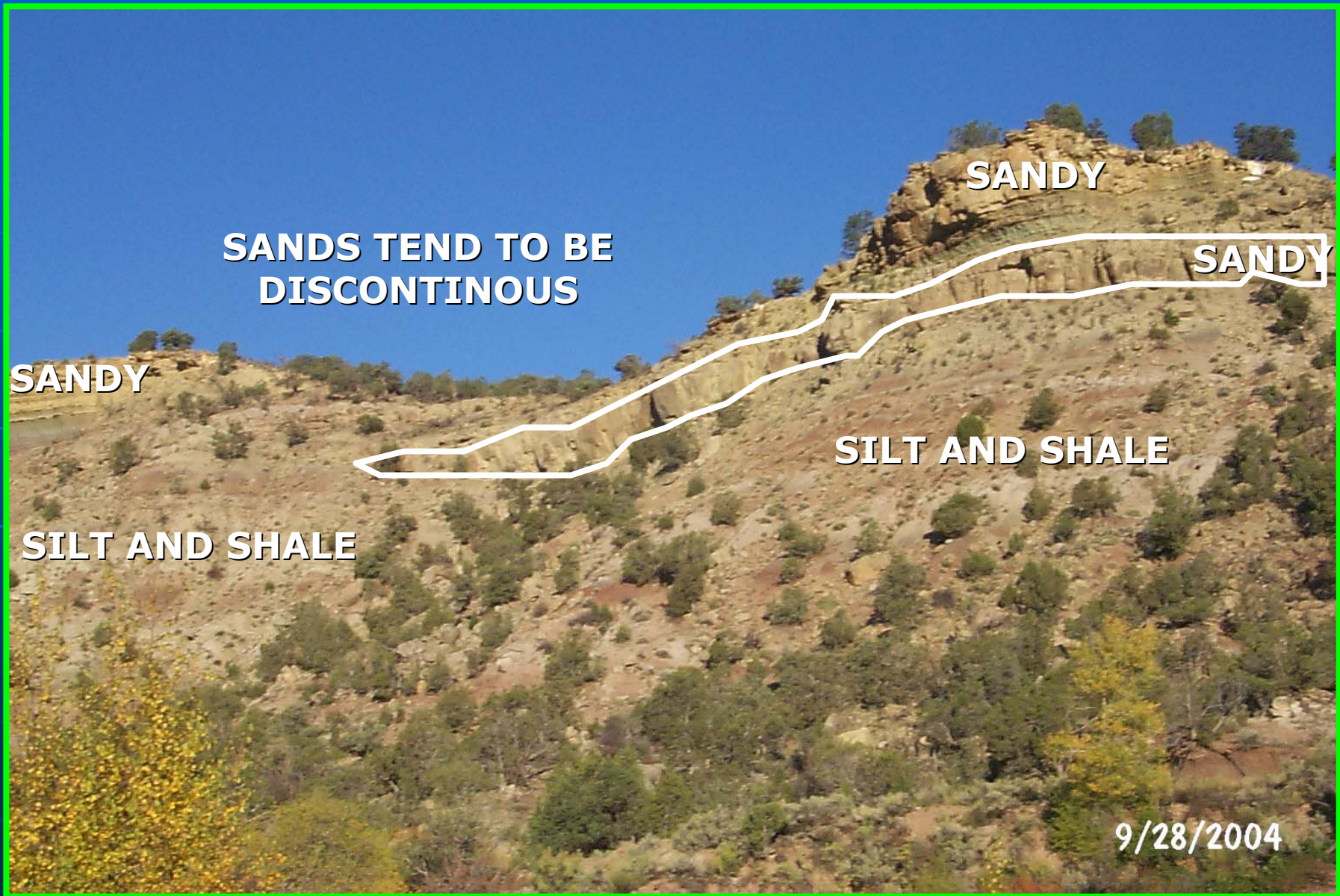
# TYPICAL GEOLOGIC MAP HUNTER MESA AND GIBSON GULCH QUADRANGLES AND WATER WELLS



# IDEALIZED AQUIFER RECHARGE AND DISCHARGE



# BEDROCK AQUIFERS ARE DISCONTINUOUS

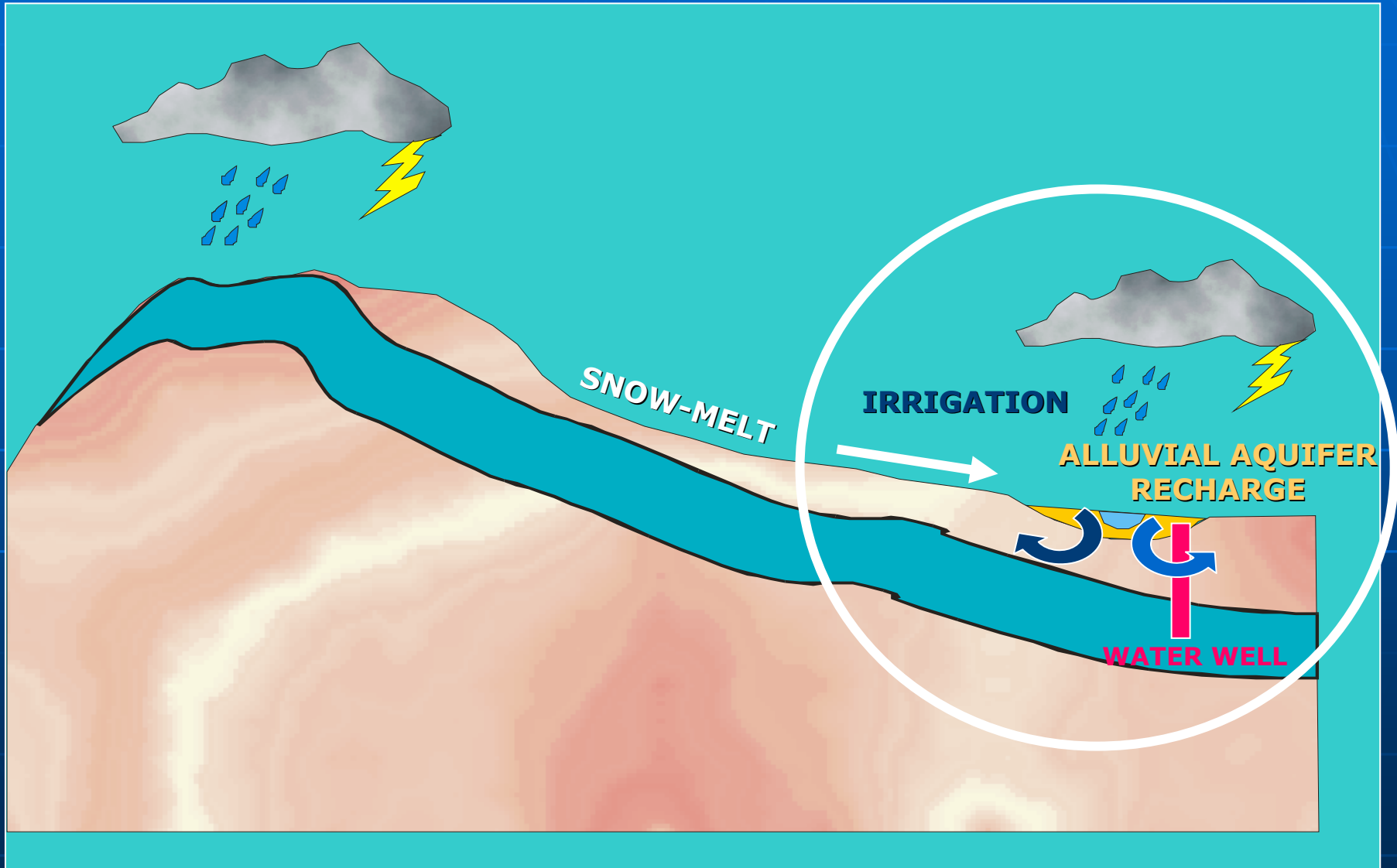


# GROUNDWATER FLOW IN BEDROCK FUNNELED BY DISCONTINUOUS SWARMS OF NATURAL FRACTURES



**SNOW MELT IS PRINCIPAL  
SOURCE OF BEDROCK  
AQUIFER RECHARGE**

# IDEALIZED AQUIFER RECHARGE AND DISCHARGE





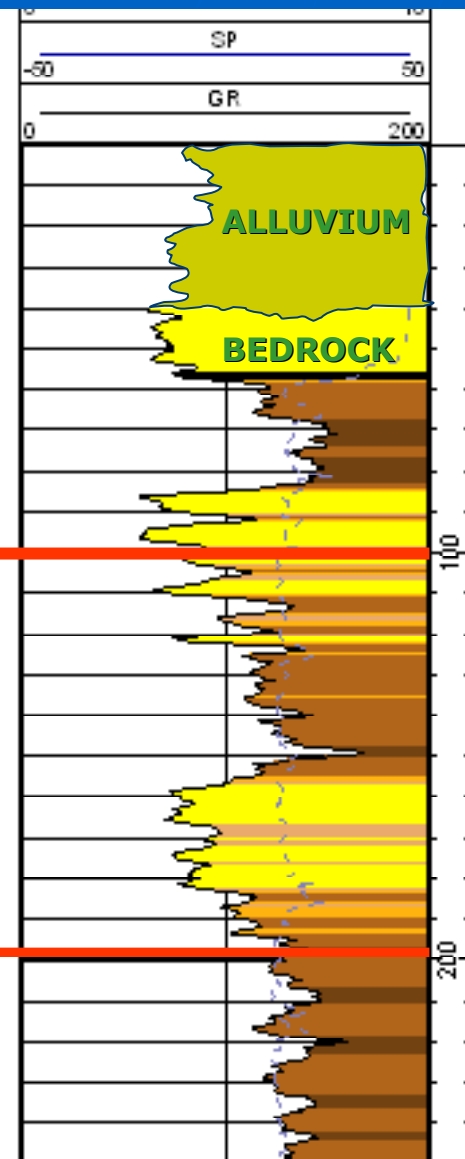
# TYPICAL ALLUVIAL AQUIFERS: DIVIDE CREEK NARROW VALLEY FILL







# TYPICAL ALLUVIAL AQUIFER TEXTURE

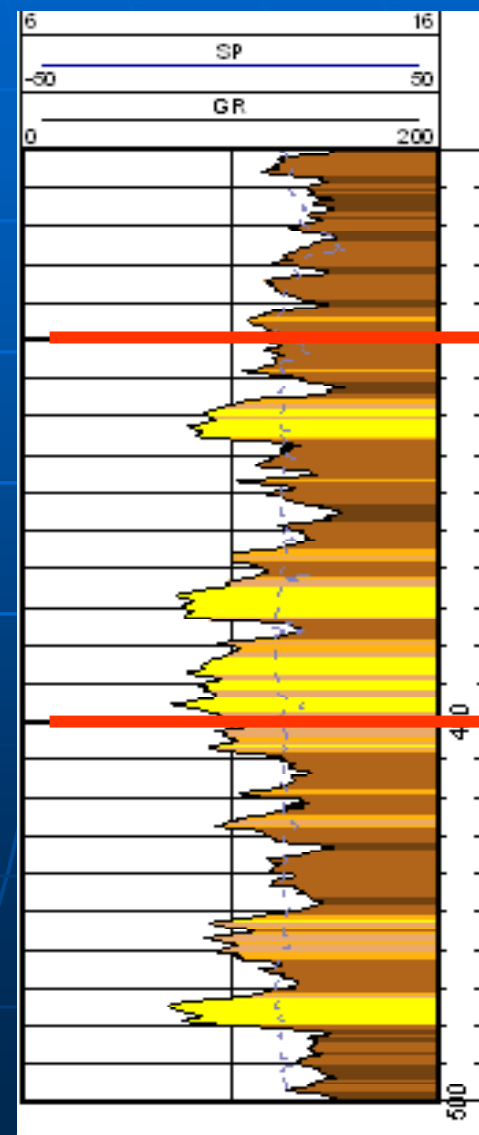


# GAMMA RAY TRACES OF SHALLOW SUBSURFACE SHOW POTENTIAL AQUIFERS



-  SAND
-  SILTY SAND
-  SILTY SHALE
-  SHALE

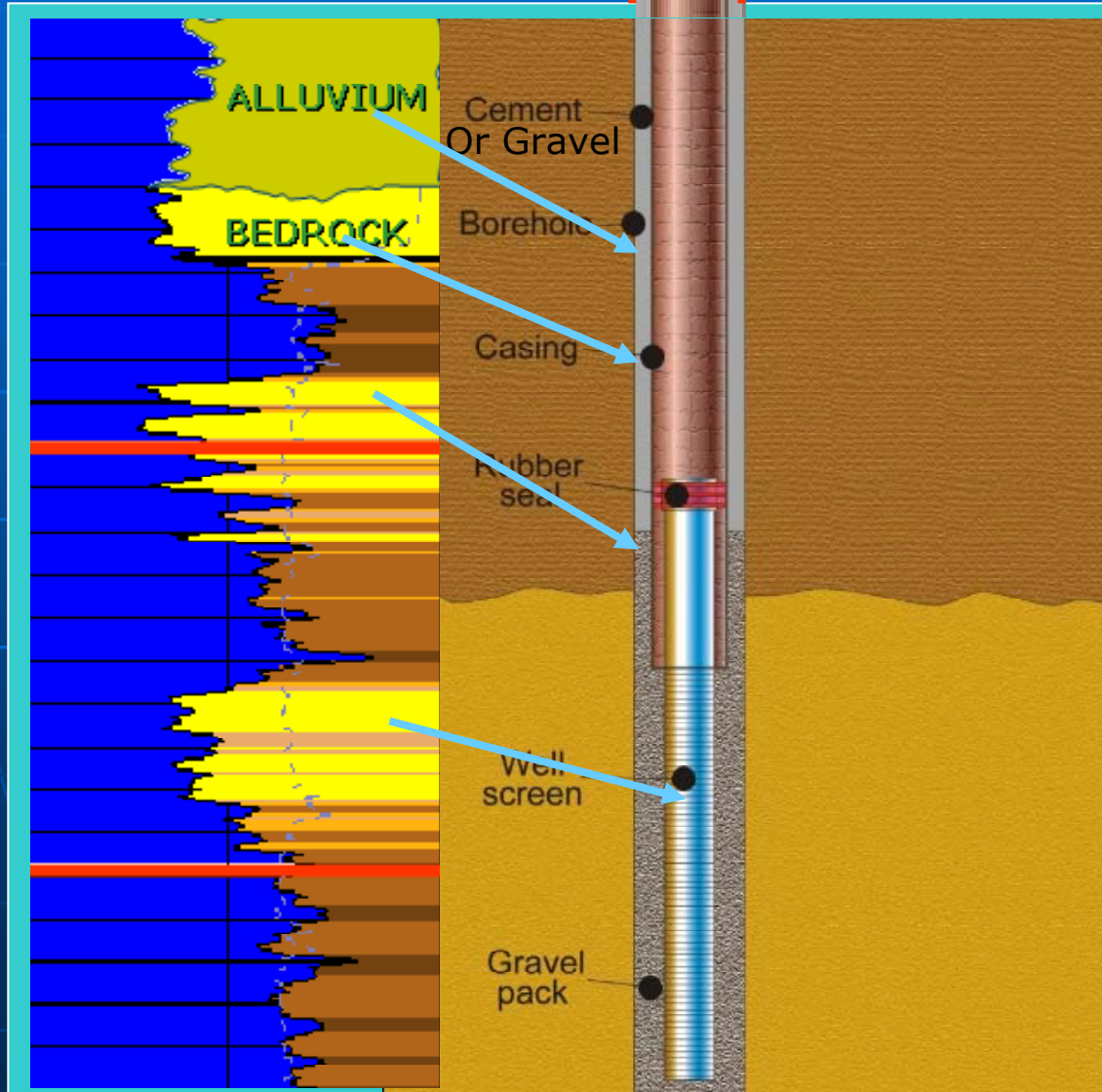
**EACH SAND MAY OR MAY NOT PRODUCE WATER**



# TYPICAL WELL BORE CONSTRUCTION

## SANITARY SEAL

GROUND LEVEL



**DEPENDING ON  
CONSTRUCTION,  
WATER CAN  
ORIGINATE  
FROM MULTIPLE  
SOURCES**

# WELLS MUST BE PROPERLY CONSTRUCTED TO AVOID PROBLEMS WITH YIELD AND WATER QUALITY



- WHAT IS SIGNIFICANCE OF DISCOLORED PAVEMENT IN WELL HOUSE?

# INTERPRETING THE SOURCE AND QUALITY OF WATER

- FIELD DATA ACQUISITION
- FIELD SAMPLE ACQUISITION
  - LABORATORY SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS
  - DISSOLVED SALTS AND MINERALS
  - DISSOLVED ORGANIC COMPONENTS
- LAB REPORTS
- INTERPRETATION

# FIELD SAMPLING AND LABORATORY ANALYSIS



1/7/2000

# FIELD MEASUREMENTS : WATER LEVEL, ACIDITY, CONDUCTIVITY DISSOLVED OXYGEN, TURBIDITY, SMELL, COLOR



- **SENSORS TO DETECT WATER QUALITY**
  - FLOW THROUGH
  - INDIVIDUAL
- **WATER LEVEL**



# SAMPLES COLLECTED AND SENT TO LABORATORIES FOR ANALYSIS



## WHAT LABORATORY DATA REPORTS CONTAIN

- **GENERAL QUALITY INDICATORS:** Total salt content (< 500 mg/L), Hardness (<180 mg/L), Turbidity (<20 NTU).
- **DISSOLVED MINERAL SALT COMPOSITION :**
- **INORGANIC HEALTH IMPURITIES:** Fluoride (< 4.0 mg/L), Selenium (< 0.05 mg/L) , Nitrates (< 10 mg/L), Nitrites (<1 mg/L),
- **ORGANIC HEALTH IMPURITIES:** BTEX - Benzene (<5 ppb), Toluene (<1 mg/L), Ethyl benzene (<700 ppb), Xylene (<10 mg/L),
- **NUISANCE CONSTITUENTS:** Iron (< 0.3 mg/L), Manganese (< 0.05 mg/L), Sulfate (< 250 mg/L), Chlorides (< 250 mg/L);
- **BACTERIA**
- **DISSOLVED NATURAL GAS**

Sample ID	Client Sample ID	Matrix	Collection Date	Date Received	Storage	Test Code	Test Name
04-7410-01A	093004-S6	Water	9/30/04	10/1/04	3	8021_W *	8021: BTEX, MiBE
04-7410-01B	093004-S6	Water	9/30/04	10/1/04	B6	6020_WT *	6020 Total Metals
04-7410-01C	093004-S6	Water	9/30/04	10/1/04	B6	SULF_H2S	Hydrogen Sulfide
04-7410-01D	093004-S6	Water	9/30/04	10/1/04	B6	COND_W	Specific Conductance @ 25°C
04-7410-01D	093004-S6	Water	9/30/04	10/1/04	B6	F_W	Fluoride
04-7410-01D	093004-S6	Water	9/30/04	10/1/04	B6	PH_W	pH
04-7410-01D	093004-S6	Water	9/30/04	10/1/04	B6	TDS_W	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)
04-7410-01E	093004-S6	Water	9/30/04	10/1/04	B6	ANIONS_W *	Anions by IC
04-7410-01F	093004-S6	Water	9/30/04	10/1/04	B6	ALK_WGRP *	Alkalinity
04-7410-01G	093004-S6	Water	9/30/04	10/1/04	2	MEEP_W *	RSK175M: Methane
04-7410-01H	093004-S6	Water	9/30/04	10/1/04	B6	AMMON_W	Ammonia-N

# DISSOLVED SALT AND MINERAL CONCENTRATIONS USED TO DEFINE ACCEPTABLE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Primary Drinking Standards (mg/L)	4.00	10	0.006	0.01	2	0.005	0.1	1.3	0.015	0.002	0.05
	F	NO3	Sb	As	Ba	Cd	Cr	Cu	Pb	Hg	Se

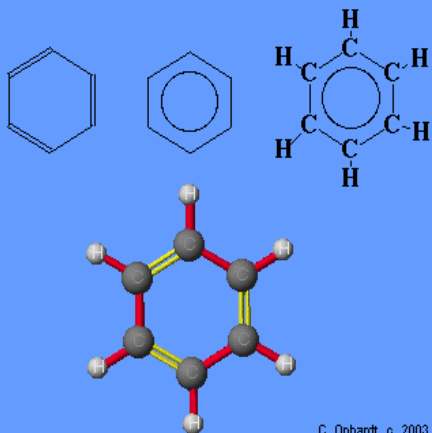
Secondary Drinking Standards (mg/L)	6.5-8.5	250.0	250	500.00	0.05	0.3	0.05	0.1	5
	FieldpH	Cl	SO4	TDS	Al	Fe	Mn	Ag	Zn

Irrigation Standards (mg/L)																
2	2000.0	2500	4.50	9	1	0.1	0.005	0.1	0.05	0.2	5	2.5	0.005	0.2	0.02	2
Mn	TDS	Ec	pH	pH	Al	As	Cd	Cr	Co	Cu	Pb	Li	Mo	Ni	Se	Zn

Stock Water Standards (mg/L)																
2000	2000	1500	1500	2.00	100	5000	0.05	0.01	1	1	0.5	0.05	0.05	24		
Na	Mg	Cl	SO4	F	NO3	TDS	As	Cd	Cr	Co	Cu	Pb	Se	Zn		

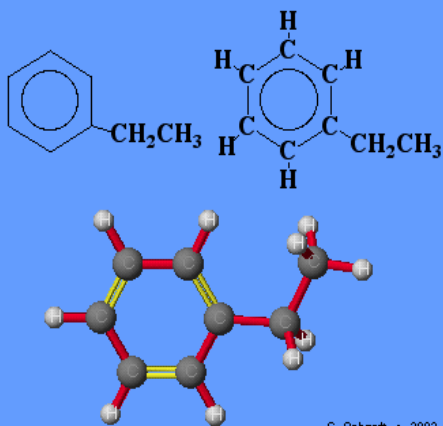
# ANALYSES OF DISSOLVED ORGANIC CARBON COMPOUNDS: BTEX & MTBE

Benzene



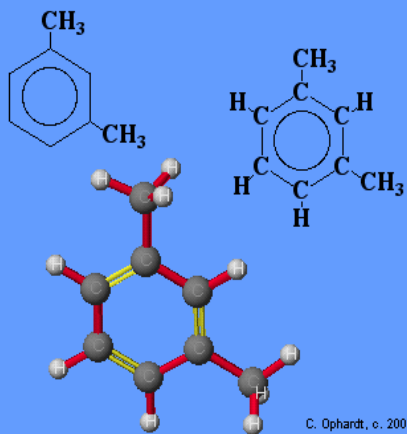
C. Ophardt, c. 2003

Ethylbenzene



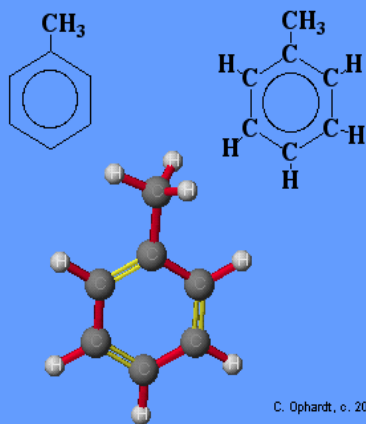
C. Ophardt, c. 2003

1,3-dimethylbenzene

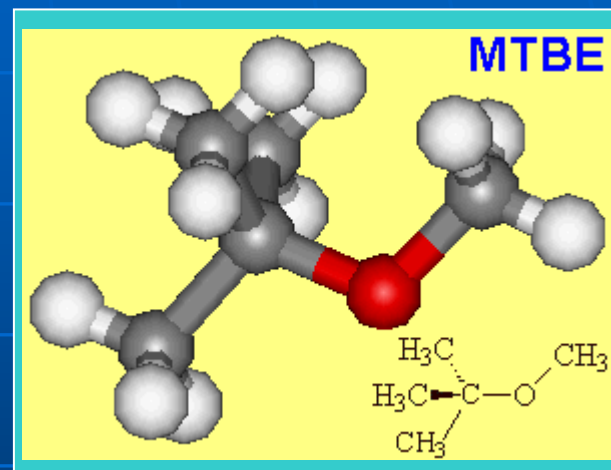


C. Ophardt, c. 2003

Toluene or methylbenzene



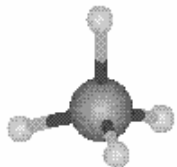
C. Ophardt, c. 2003



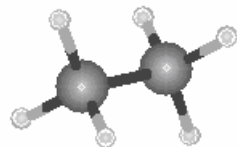
**POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT SOURCES:**

**LEAKY FUEL TANKS  
IMPROPER DUMPING  
ACCIDENTAL RELEASE  
OIL AND GAS WELLS**

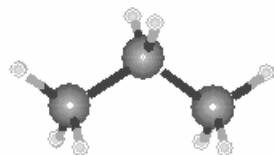
	<b>EPA</b>
	<b>Maximum contaminant level</b>
<b>Benzene</b>	<b>5 ppb</b>
<b>Toluene</b>	<b>1 ppm</b>
<b>Ethylbenzene</b>	<b>0.7 ppm</b>
<b>Xylene</b>	<b>10 ppm</b>



*Methane*



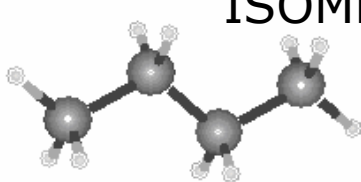
*Ethane*



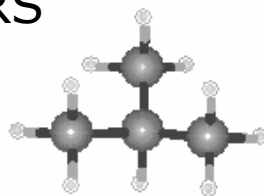
*Propane*

# ANALYSES OF DISSOLVED ORGANIC CARBON COMPOUNDS: NATURAL GAS COMPOUNDS

## ISOMERS

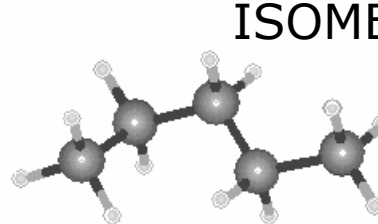


*Butane*

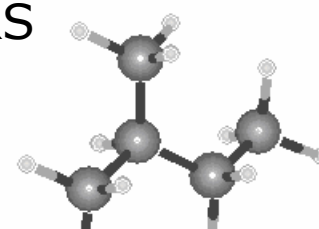


*Isobutane*

## ISOMERS



*Pentane*



*Isopentane*

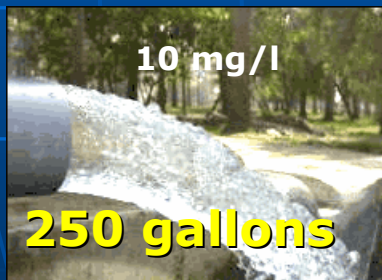
Name	State	Formula	MP degC	BP degC	Density(g/ml)
====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Methane	Gas	CH <sub>4</sub>	-183	-162	0.42
Ethane	Gas	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	-172	-89	0.55
Propane	Gas	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>8</sub>	-190	-45	0.58
Butane	Gas	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>10</sub>	-135	-0.5	0.58
Pentane	Liquid	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>12</sub>	-130	36	0.63
Hexane	Liquid	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>14</sub>	- 95	69	0.66
Heptane	Liquid	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>16</sub>	- 91	98	0.68

# DISSOLVED GAS CONCERNS

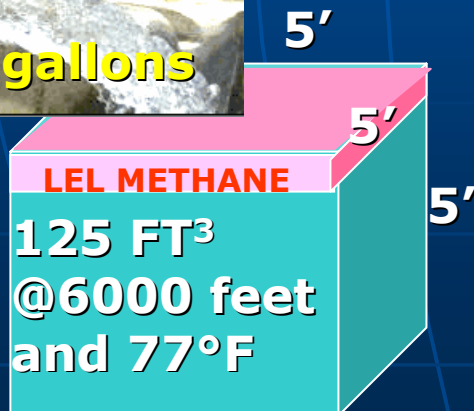
- **GASEOUS HYDROCARBONS ARE NOT TOXIC**
- **LIGHT HYDROCARBONS ARE SIMPLE ASPHYXIANTS**
  - **PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO BE AVOIDED WHEN GAS DISPLACES BREATHABLE OXYGEN**
    - **DIZZINESS, HEADACHES, LOSS OF JUDGEMENT:**
      - **METHANE 1% IN AIR**
      - **ETHANE: 13% IN AIR**
      - **BUTANE: 2% IN AIR**
- **LOWER EXPLOSIVE LIMIT (LEL):**
  - **METHANE: 5% OF AIR VOLUME**
  - **ETHANE: 3% OF AIR VOLUME**
  - **PROPANE: 2.12 % OF AIR VOLUME**
  - **BUTANE: 1.6% OF AIR VOLUME**

# WHY MONITOR DISSOLVED METHANE CONCENTRATIONS?

- **< 2 mg/L** : below threshold for exsolution, concentration too low for forensic analysis
- **> 10 mg/L** : can concentrate to LEL if allowed to accumulate in unventilated spaces
- **22 mg/L** : approximate saturation concentration at 7000 feet above sea level ; effervescent



**CONFINEMENT WITHOUT VENTILATION**  
**EQUIVALENT TO AN 80 HOUR SHOWER**



# SOURCES OF NATURAL GAS

## ➤ NATURAL

- THERMOGENIC

- PRESSURE COOKING OF RAW ORGANIC MATERIAL DURING BURIAL

- PETROLEUM SOURCE

- ASSOCIATED WITH OIL
- MIGRATED FROM OIL
- SECONDARY CRACKING OF OIL

- MICROBIAL

- MARSH AND LANDFILL GAS: BACTERIAL FERMENTATION REACTIONS

- GROUNDWATER GAS: REDUCTION OF CARBON DIOXIDE

- ABIOGENIC

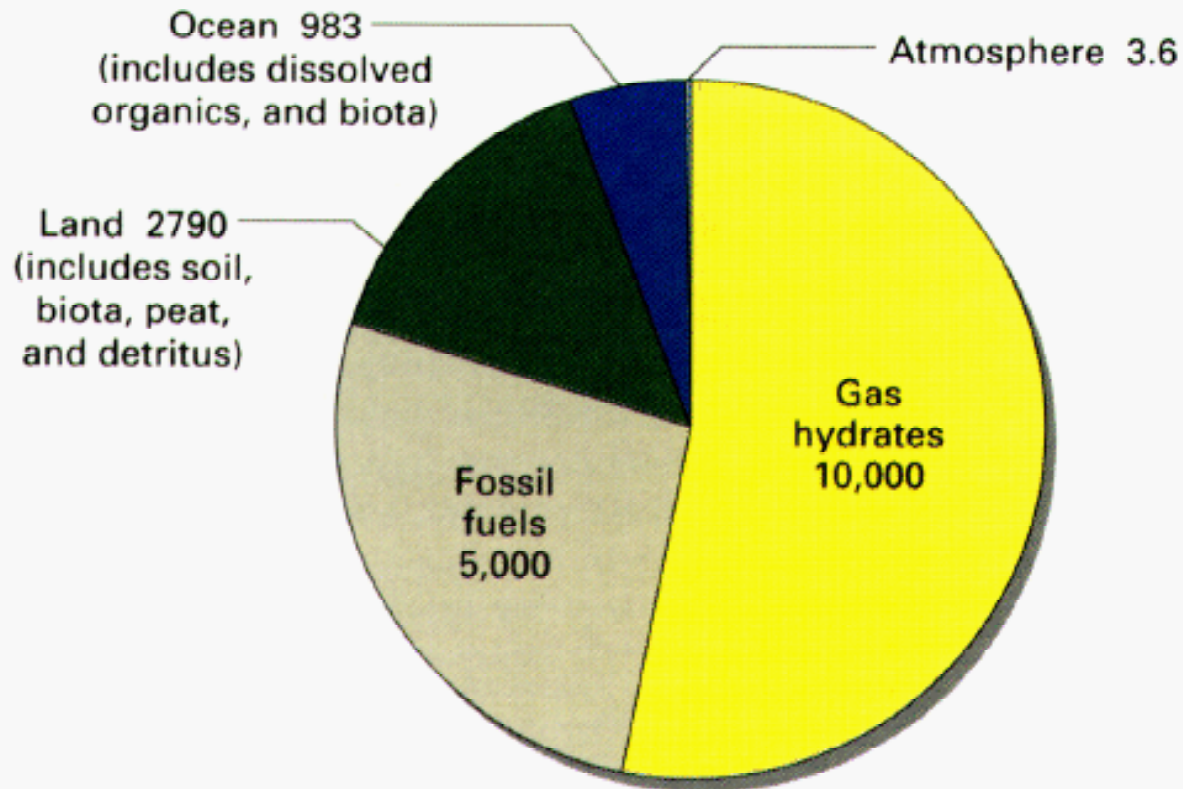
- POLYMERIZATION REACTIONS

## ➤ CONTAMINANT

- ACCIDENTAL OIL AND GAS WELL EMISSIONS
- ACCIDENTAL PIPELINE EMISSIONS
- LAND FILLS
- LIVESTOCK FARMING

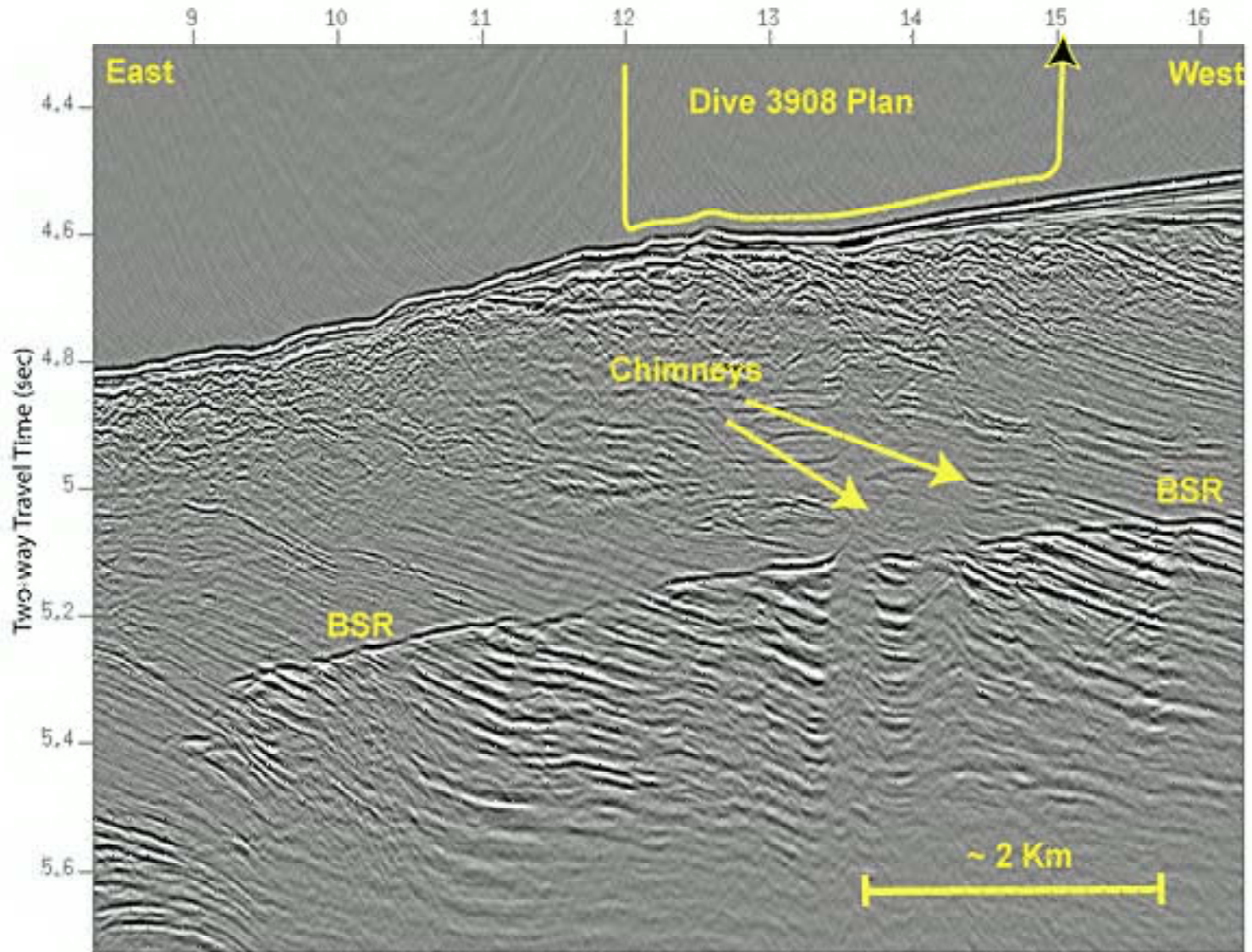


# BULK OF EARTH'S NEAR SURFACE ORGANIC CARBON LOCKED UP AS MICROBIAL METHANE IN ICE

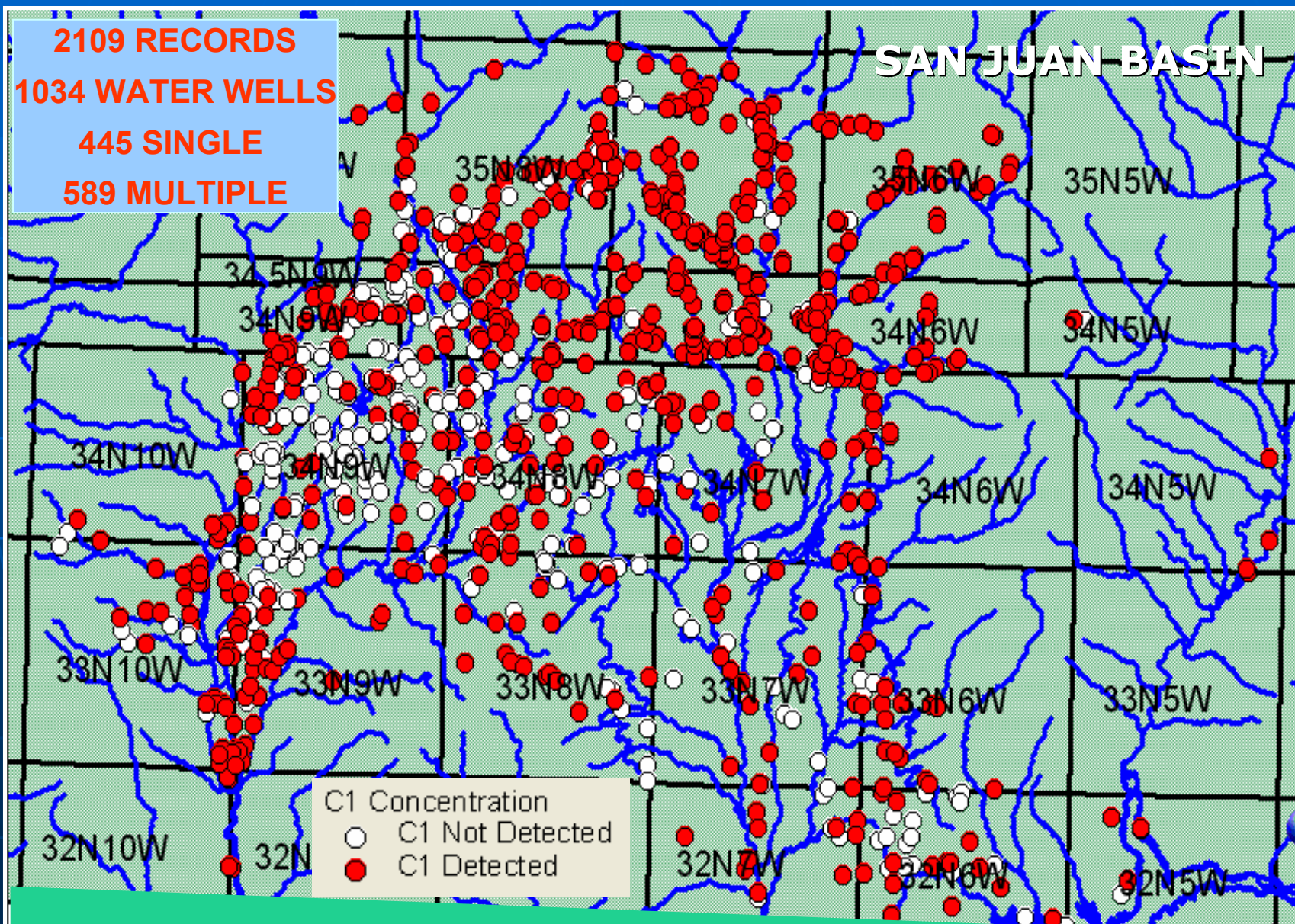


*Distribution of organic carbon in Earth reservoirs (excluding dispersed carbon in rocks and sediments, which equals nearly 1,000 times this total amount). Numbers in gigatons ( $10^{15}$  tons) of carbon.*

# MICROBIAL METHANE LOCKED IN OCEANIC ICE DEPOSITS (HYDRATES)

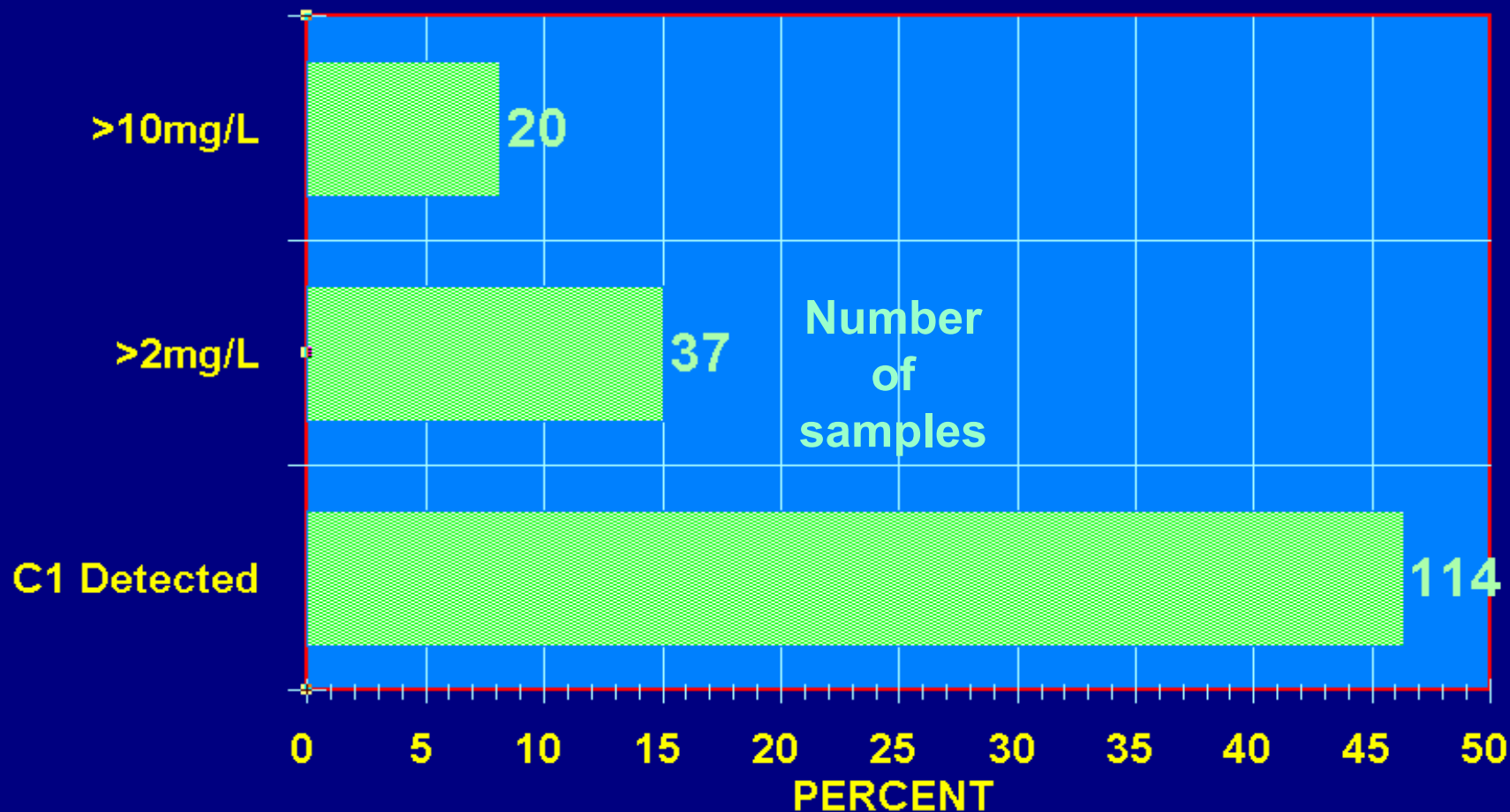


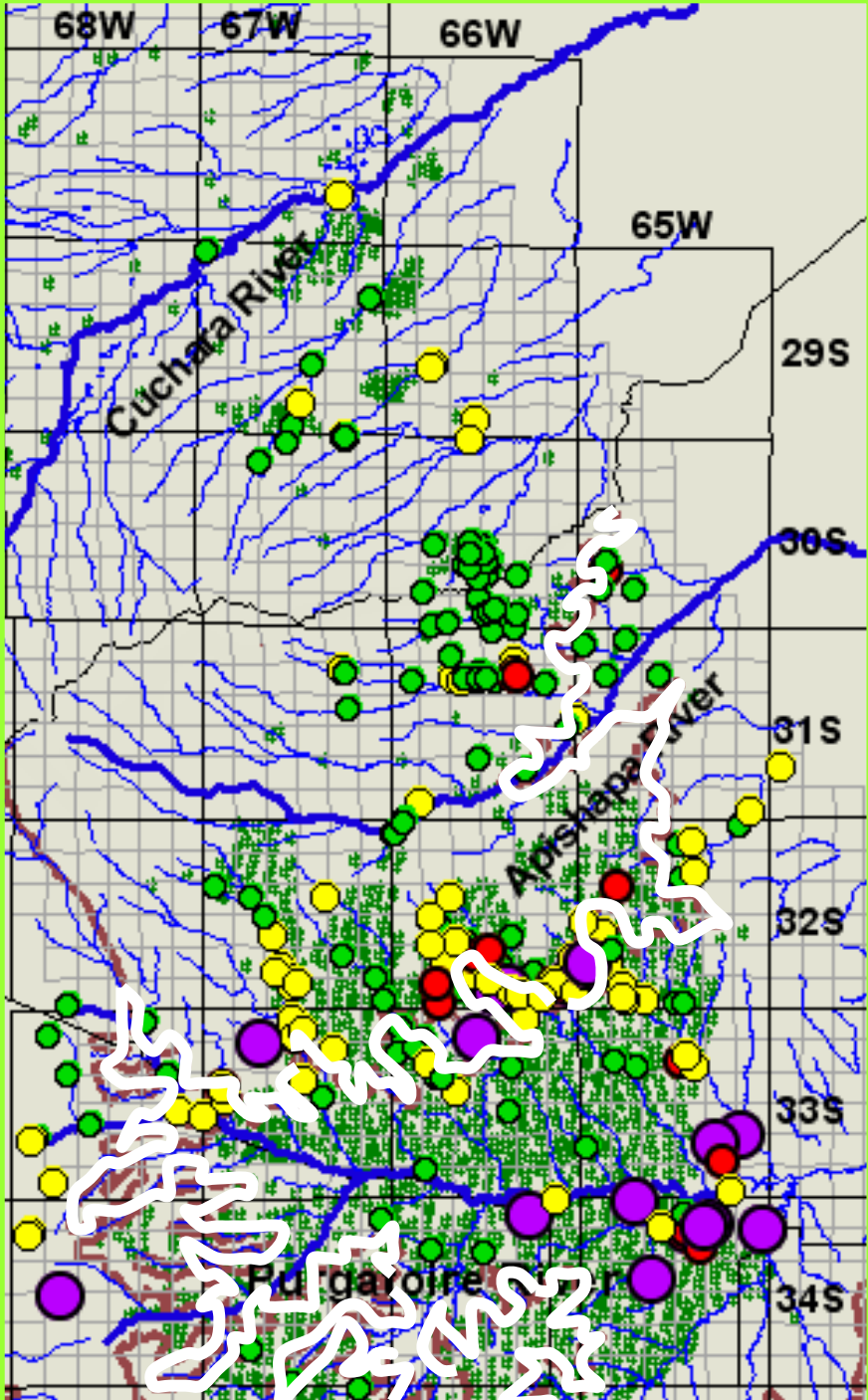
# 65% OF ALL SITES SAMPLED IN THE SAN JUAN BASIN CONTAIN MEASURABLE AMOUNTS OF DISSOLVED MICROBIAL METHANE



# DISSOLVED METHANE IN GROUNDWATER, RATON BASIN BOTH MICROBIAL AND ASSOCIATED WITH COAL

246 WATER WELL SAMPLES  
Dissolved Methane





## DISSOLVED METHANE FROM SHALLOW COAL OUTCROP

- Dissolved Methane
- Not Detected
  - Up to 2 mg/L
  - 2-10 mg/L
  - 10 - 38 mg/L

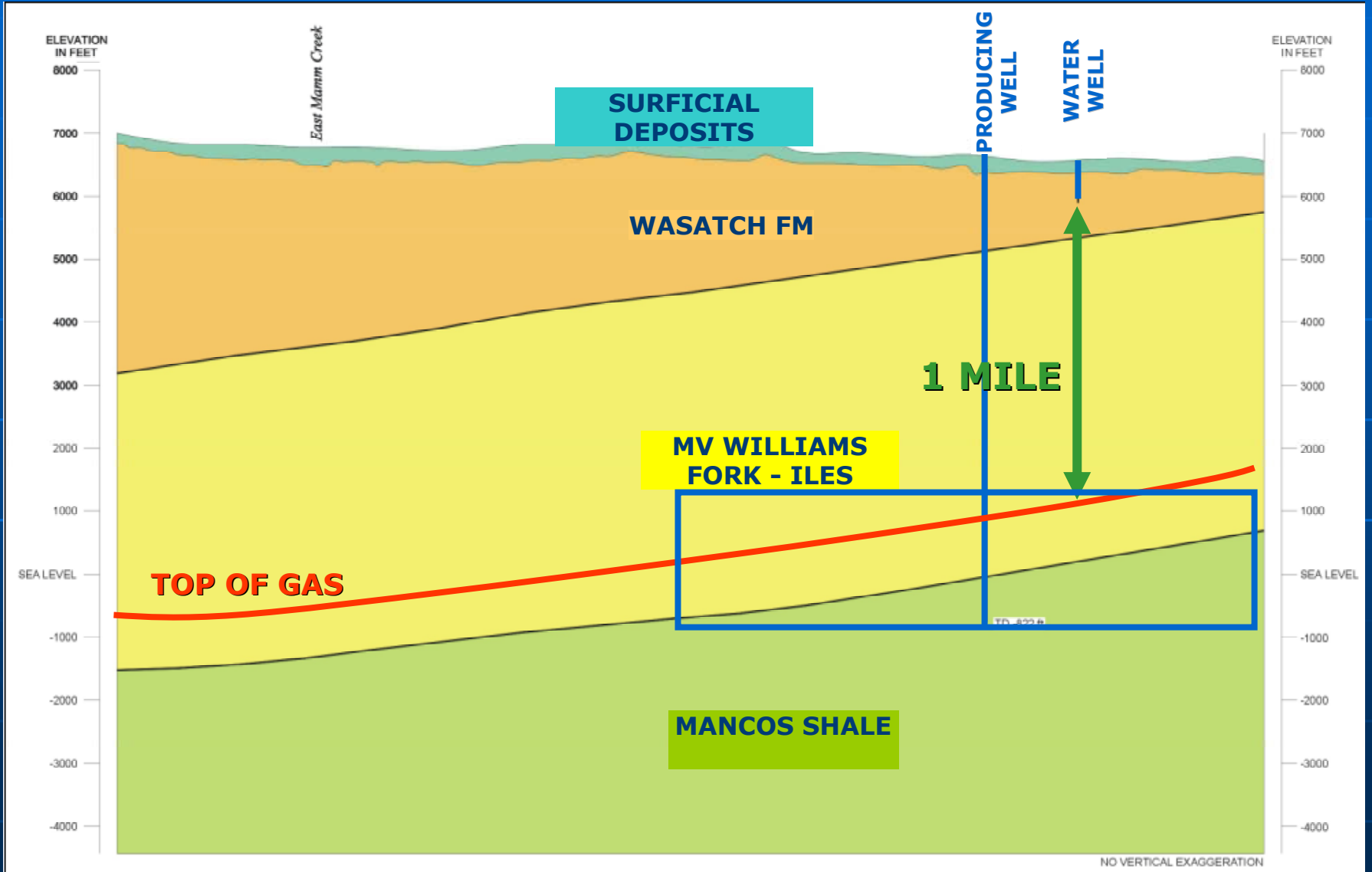
Producing Wells

✦

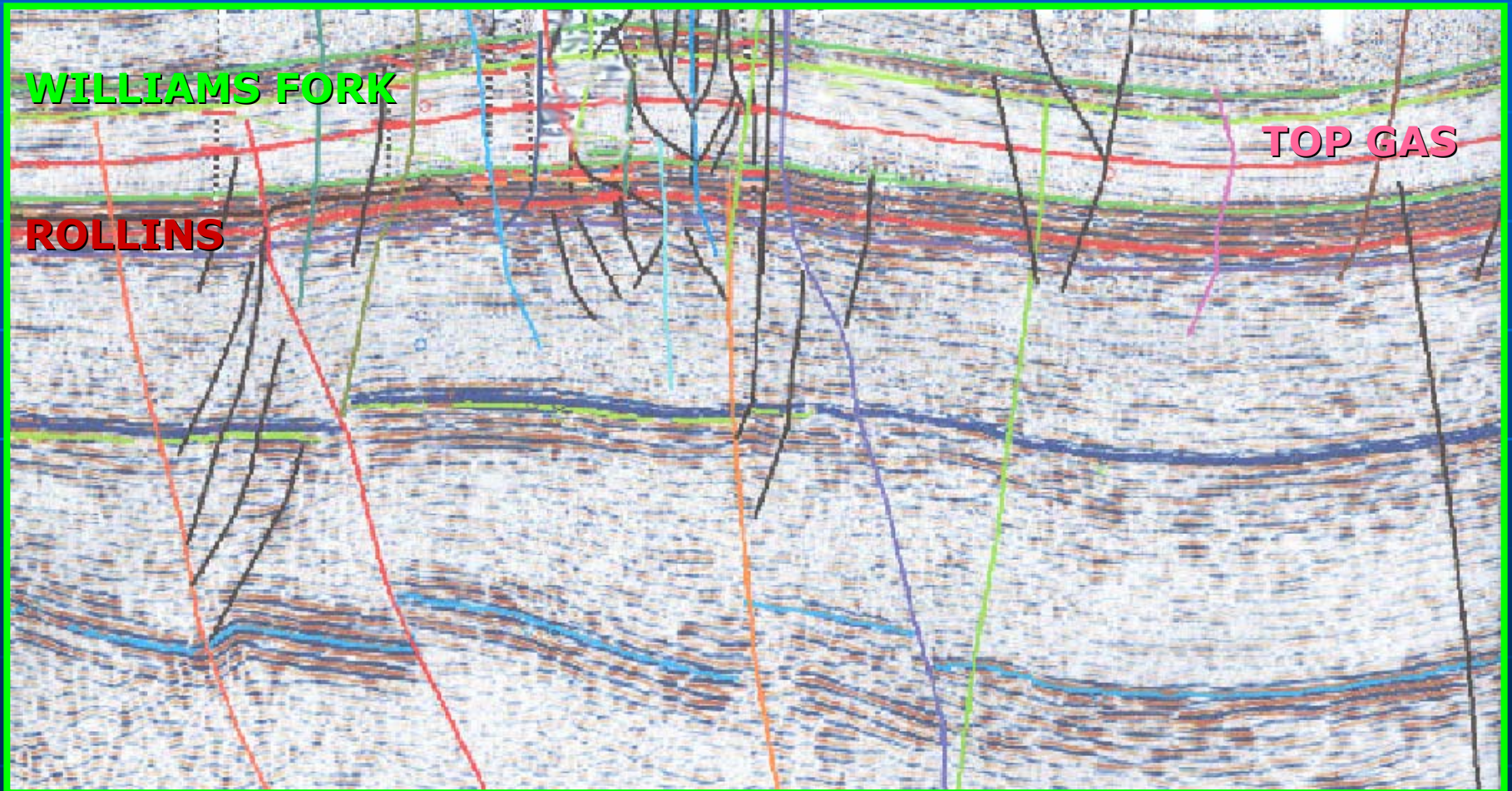
Cuchara -Poison Canyon contact

⌞

# THERMOGENIC GAS FROM PRODUCING INTERVAL IN PICEANCE BASIN NOT CLOSE TO SURFACE



# GEOLOGIC STRUCTURE ON SEISMIC LINE SHOWING LOCALIZED FOLDING AND FAULTING



# HOW DO WE CHARACTERIZE GAS SOURCES ?



# DETECTING METHANE WITH A HAND HELD DETECTOR



# ANALYZING GAS WITH A CHROMATOGRAPH



IN THE FIELD



IN THE LABORATORY

# SAMPLING FOR DISSOLVED GAS CONCENTRATION AND COMPOSITION

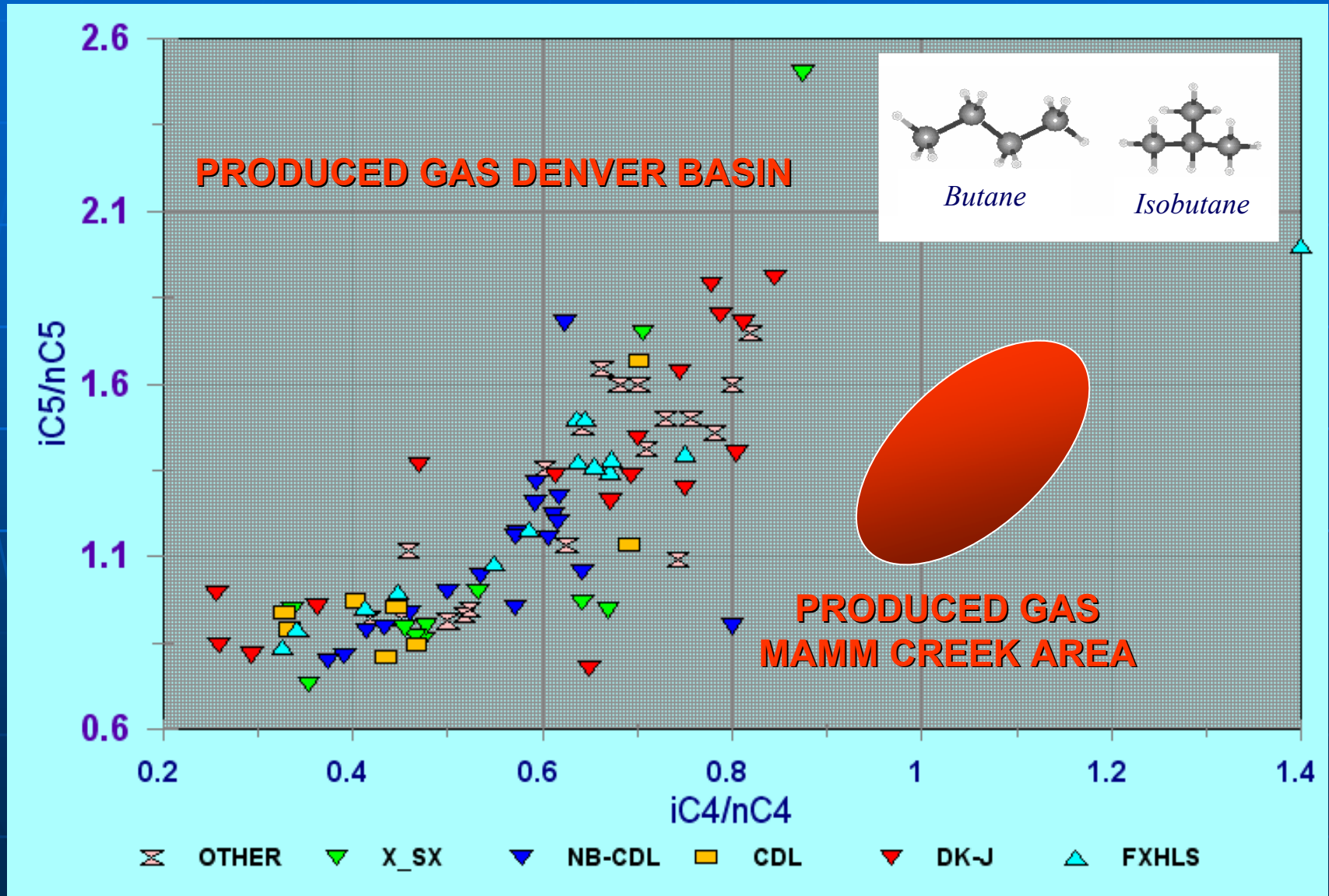


# FINGERPRINTING GAS SOURCES

## COMPOSITION

- **NON HYDROCARBONS:  $N_2$ , Ar,  $O_2$ ,  $CO_2$ ,  $H_2S$ , He,  $H_2$** 
  - **GAS RATIOS**
    - Relative abundance of non-hydrocarbons to hydrocarbons
- **HYDROCARBONS:  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$ ,  $C_3$ ,  $nC_4$ ,  $iC_4$ ,  $nC_5$ ,  $iC_5$** 
  - **GAS RATIOS**
    - Relative abundance of hydrocarbons
  - **STABLE ISOTOPES**
    - Carbon
    - Deuterium

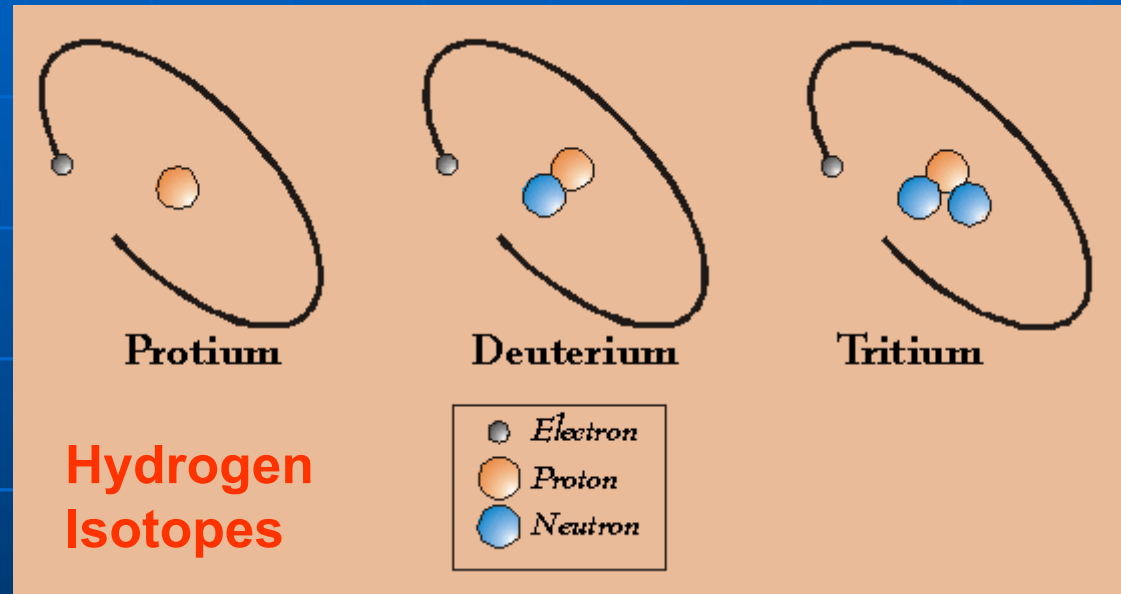
# GAS RATIOS HELP TO DEFINE THE ORIGIN OF PRODUCED GAS:



# STABLE ISOTOPE FINGERPRINTING

STABLE ISOTOPES ARE USEFUL TOOLS USED TO DETERMINE THE ORIGIN OF FLUIDS AND GASES.

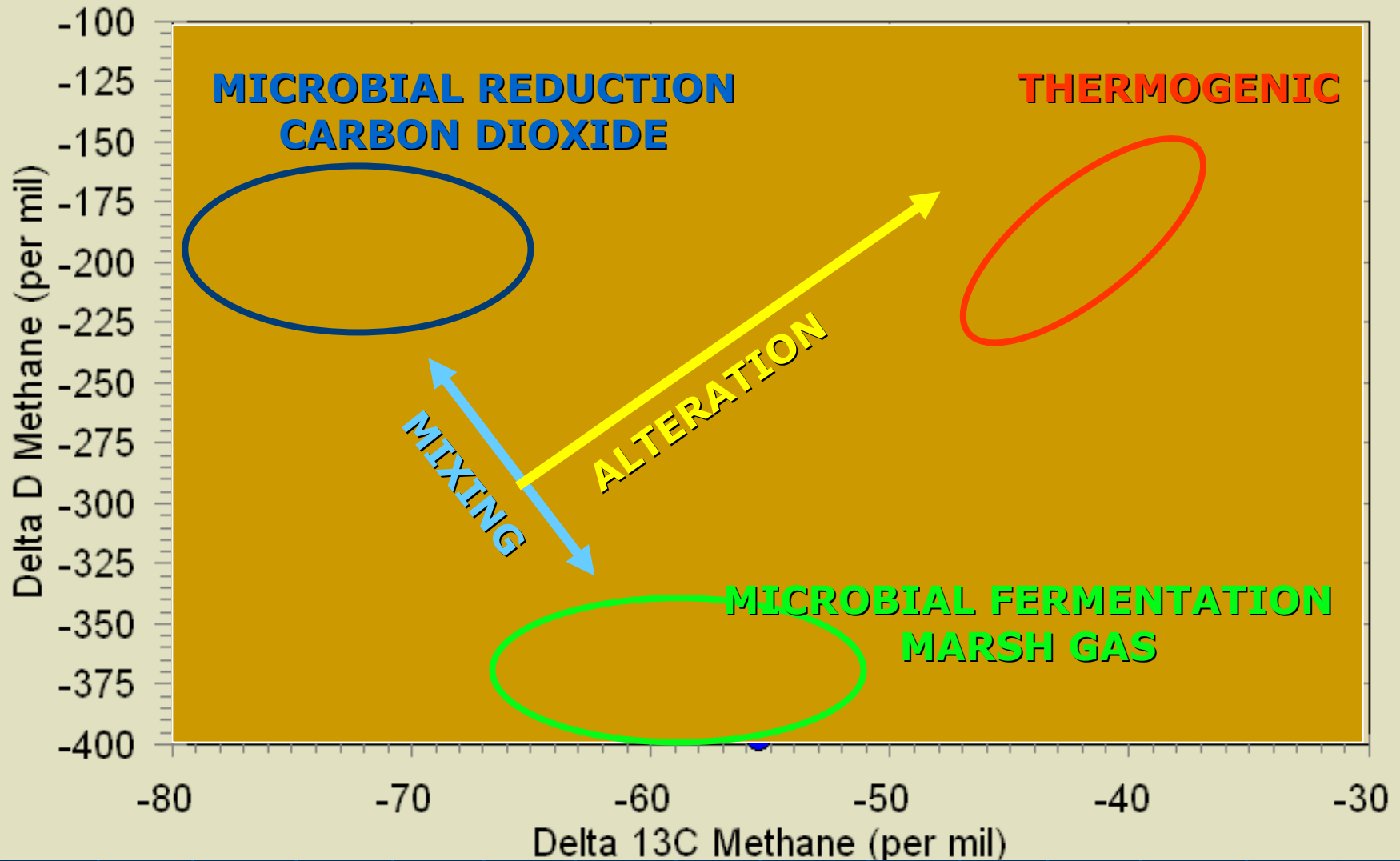
Many elements can exist in different forms known as isotopes. They differ in the number of neutrons in the nucleus but do not differ in the number of protons. Stable isotopes are not radioactive.



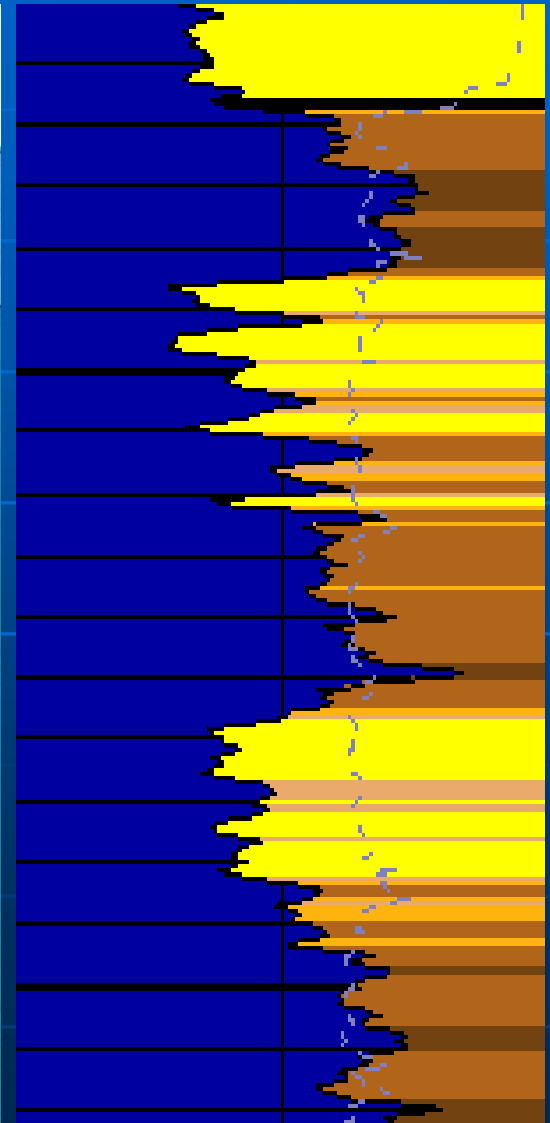
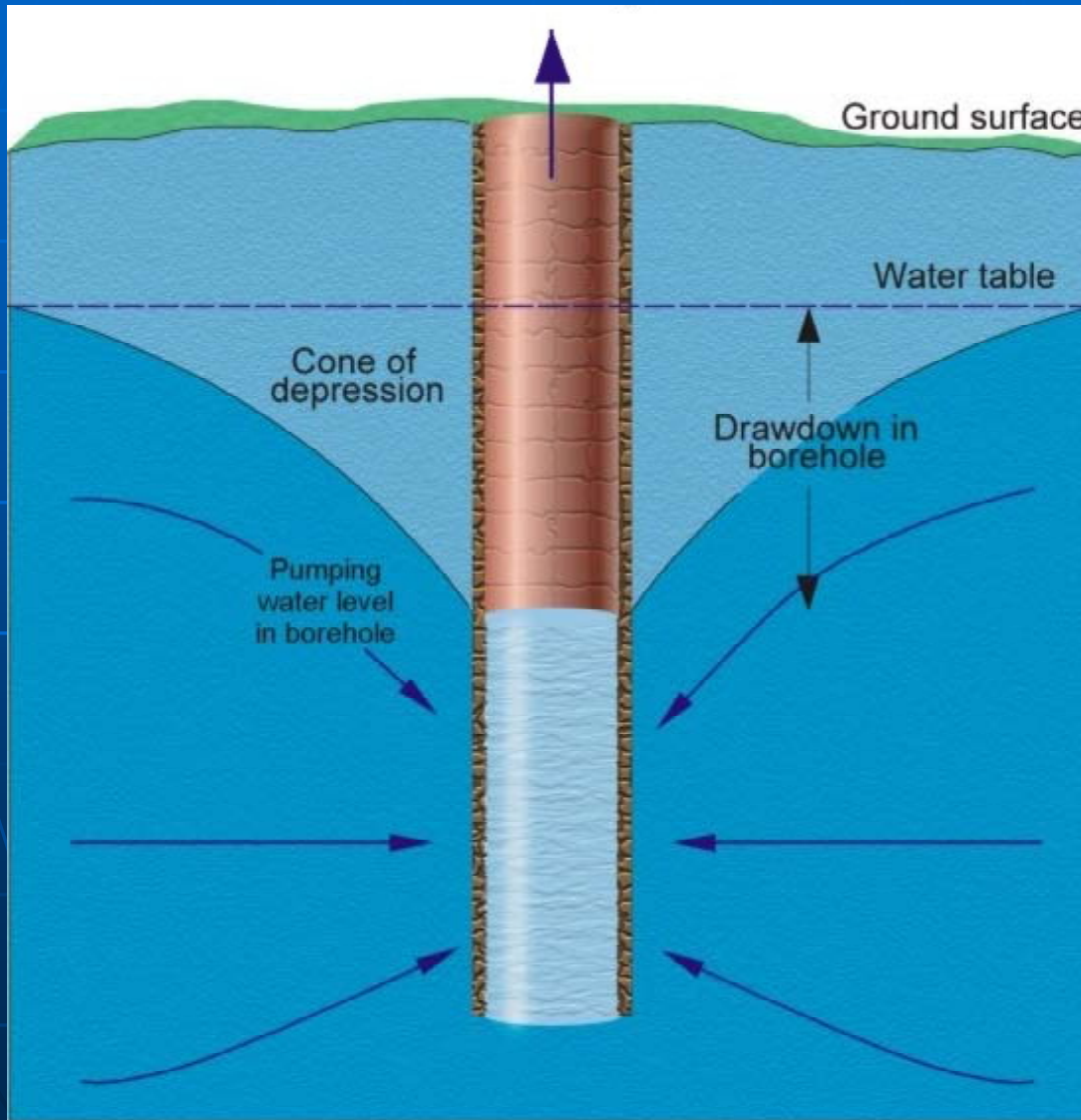
## Carbon Isotopes:

<u>Isotope</u>	<u>Protons</u>	<u>Neutrons</u>	<u>Abundance</u>	<u>Type</u>
$^{12}\text{C}$	6	6	98.98%	Stable
$^{13}\text{C}$	6	7	1.11%	Stable
$^{14}\text{C}$	6	8	trace	Unstable

# DISSOLVED METHANE IN GROUNDWATER NEAR SILT IS OF MICROBIAL ORIGIN



# PUMPING AND DRAWDOWN: WHERE DOES THE WATER COME FROM?





# PRINCIPAL COMPONENTS OF GROUNDWATER IN THIS AREA



ALLUVIUM



**LIME : CALCIUM AND  
MAGNESIUM BICARBONATE**



**GLAUBER  
SALT –  
SODIUM  
SULFATE**



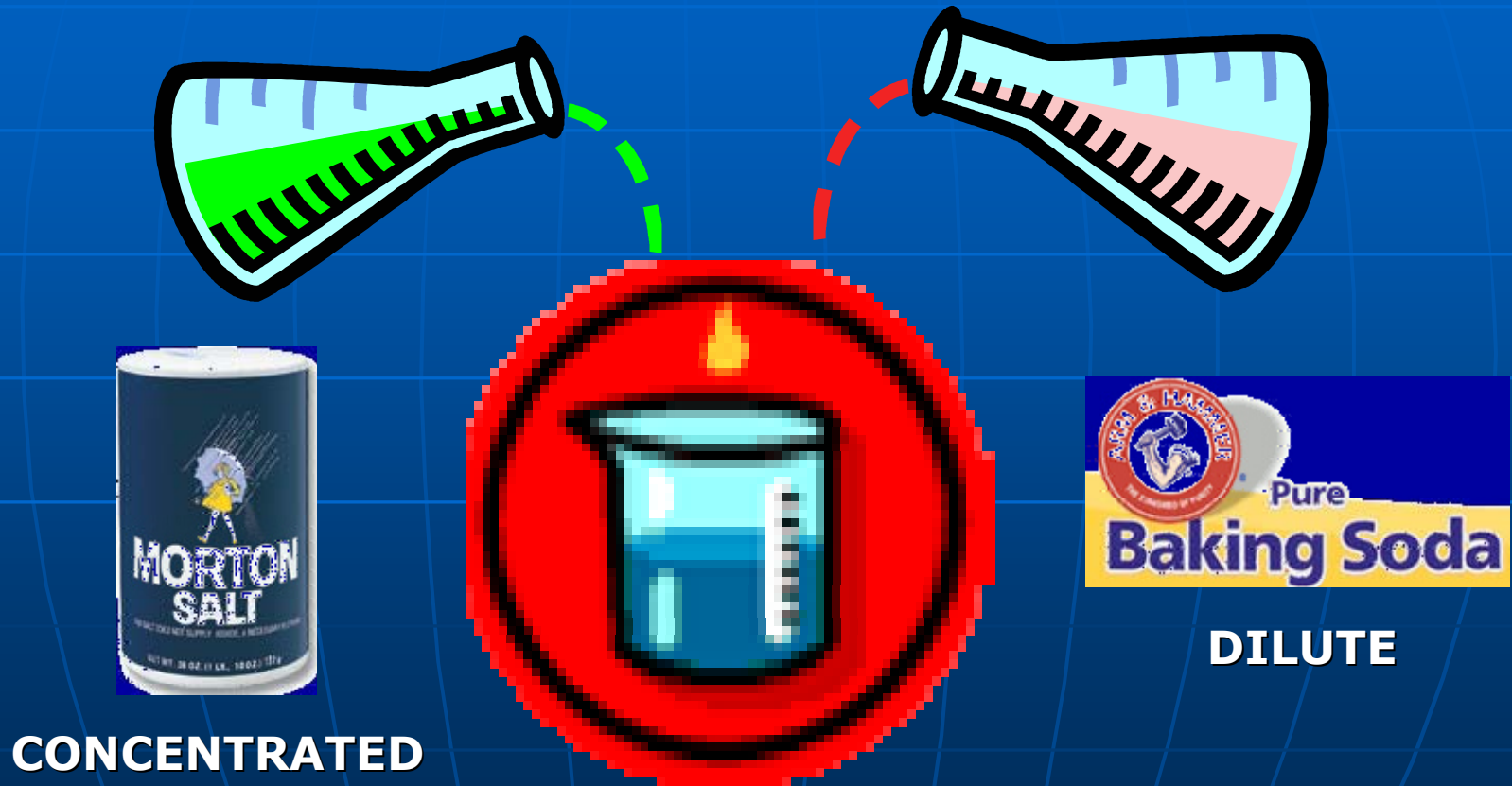
**SODIUM BICARBONATE**

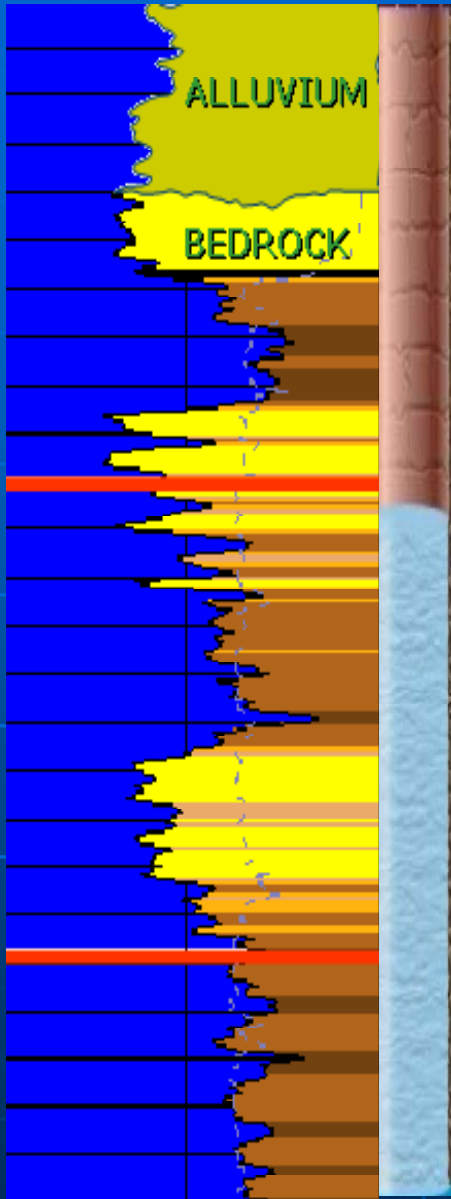


**SODIUM CHLORIDE**

**COMPOSITION AND  
CONCENTRATION VARY WITH  
DEPTH**

# DISSOLVED SALT AND METHANE CONCENTRATIONS IN WELL WATER PRINCIPALLY CHANGE AS A RESULT OF CHANGING MIXING RATES





**REDUCTION IN YIELD RATES  
FROM ANY SINGLE AQUIFER WILL  
CHANGE WATER COMPOSITION**

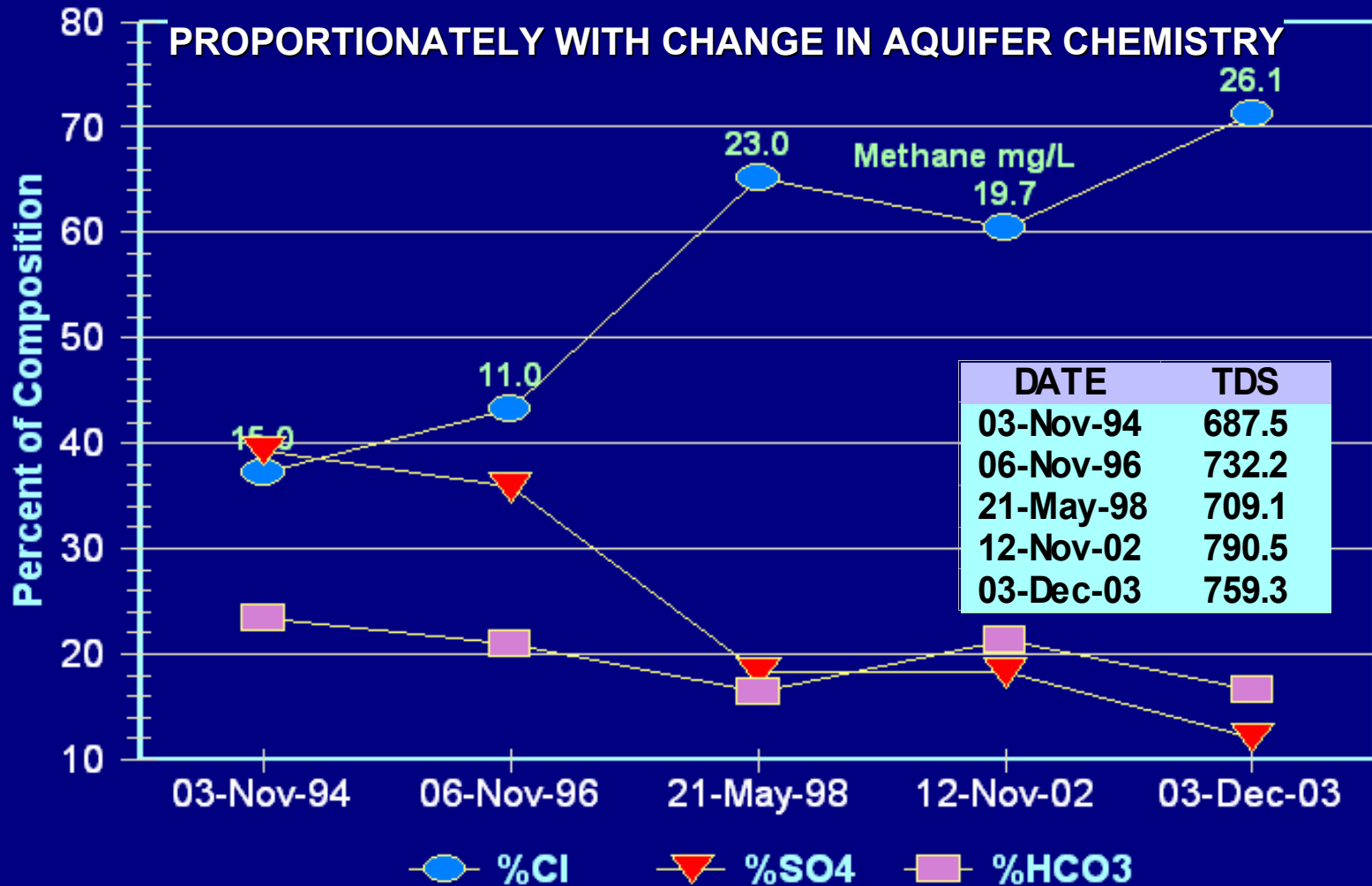


**WHAT IF THE SODIUM-CHLORIDE  
BEARING AQUIFER CARRIES  
MICROBIAL METHANE?**

# EXAMPLE OF WELLBORE MIXING AND DILUTION

## METHANE CONCENTRATION VARIES

PROPORTIONATELY WITH CHANGE IN AQUIFER CHEMISTRY



# FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGES IN AQUIFER YIELD AND WATER QUALITY

- **POPULATION GROWTH**
  - RATE OF RECHARGE VS. RATE OF CONSUMPTION – LOCAL DEPLETION
- **CLIMATIC VARIABILITY**
  - SEASONAL CHANGES
  - LONG TERM CHANGES: E.G. DROUGHT
- **WELL BORE DAMAGE**
  - FOULING: NATURAL BACTERIA

# POPULATION GROWTH WILL HAVE LOCAL IMPACT ON SMALLER AQUIFERS

Figure 4-6: Historic and Projected Population, Division 5

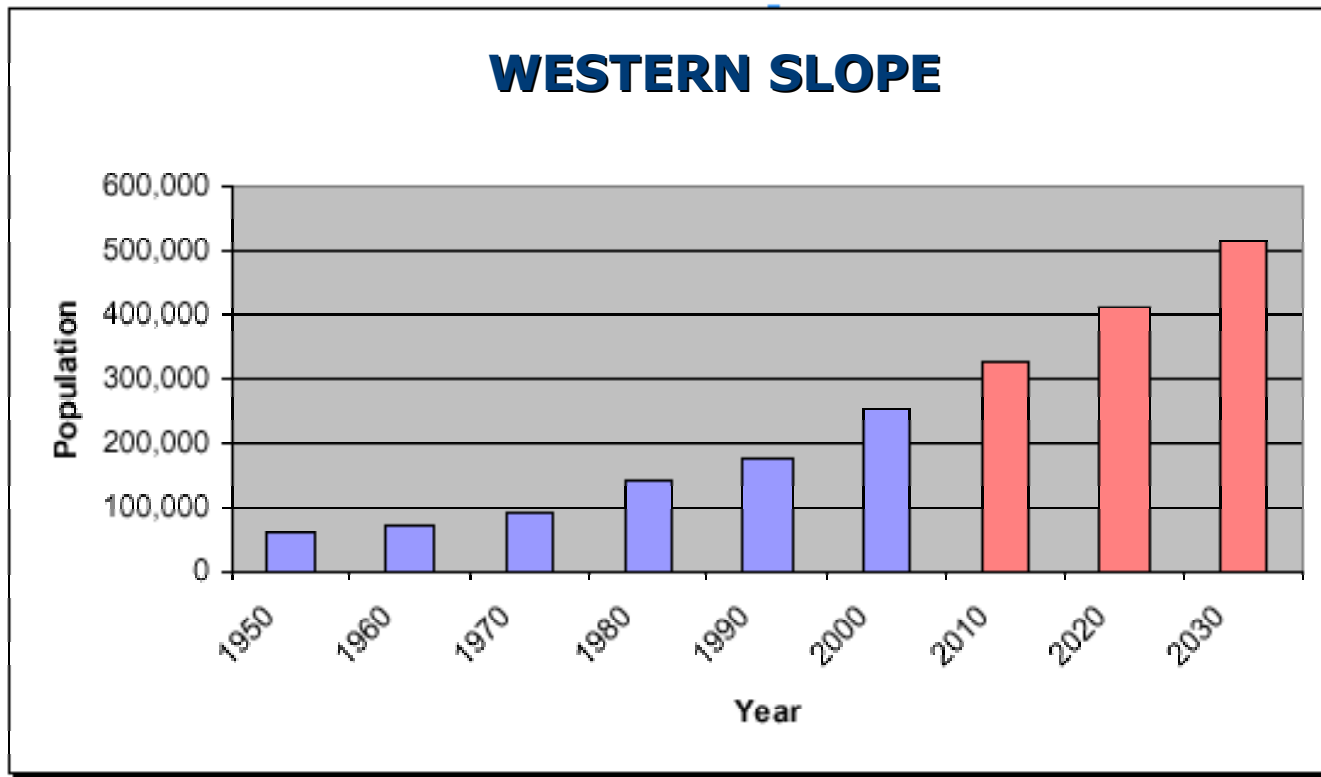


Table 4-7: Projected Population Change in Division 5

Division 5	Population			Annual Growth Rate	
	2000	2010	2030	'00-'10	'10-'30
Grand County	12,900	16,800	29,700	2.7%	2.9%
Summit County	25,700	32,500	50,600	2.4%	2.2%
Eagle County	43,400	57,100	90,000	2.8%	2.3%
Pitkin County	15,900	18,700	27,600	1.6%	2.0%
Garfield County	44,300	58,700	99,000	2.9%	2.6%
Mesa County (Grand Junction)	117,700	144,100	220,400	2.0%	2.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>259,800</b>	<b>327,700</b>	<b>517,300</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>

# SEASONAL FLOW INFLUENCES THE RATE OF FRESH WATER RECHARGE TO SHALLOW AQUIFERS

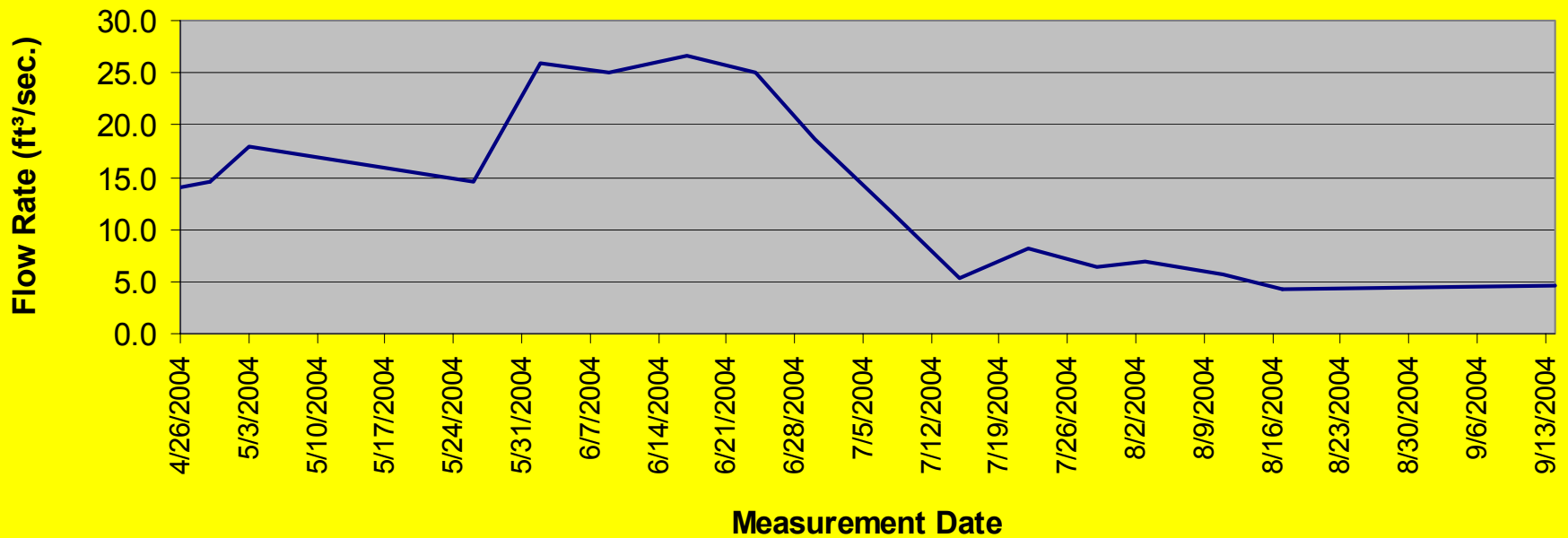
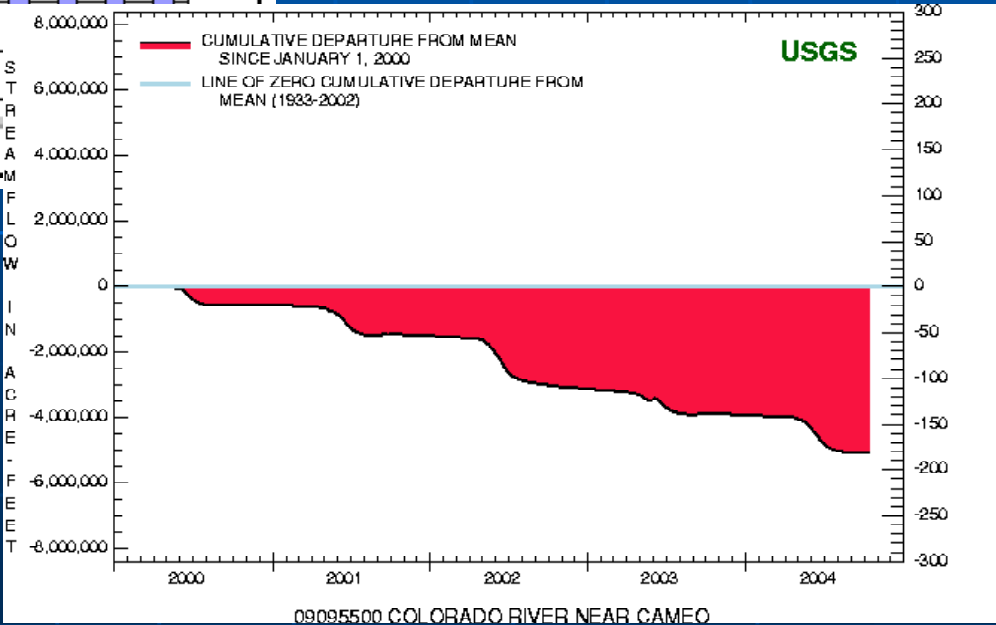
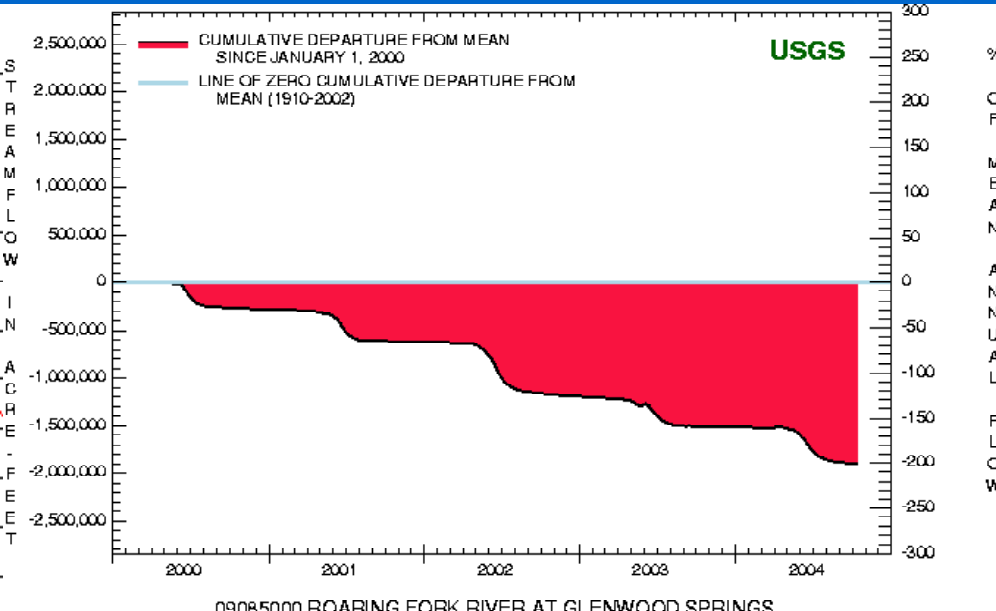
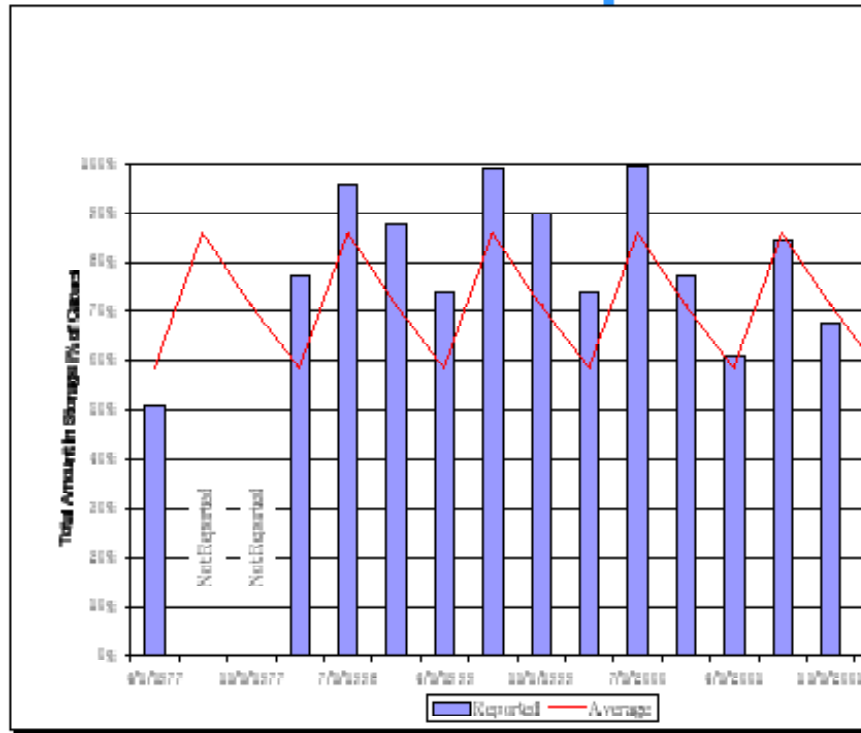


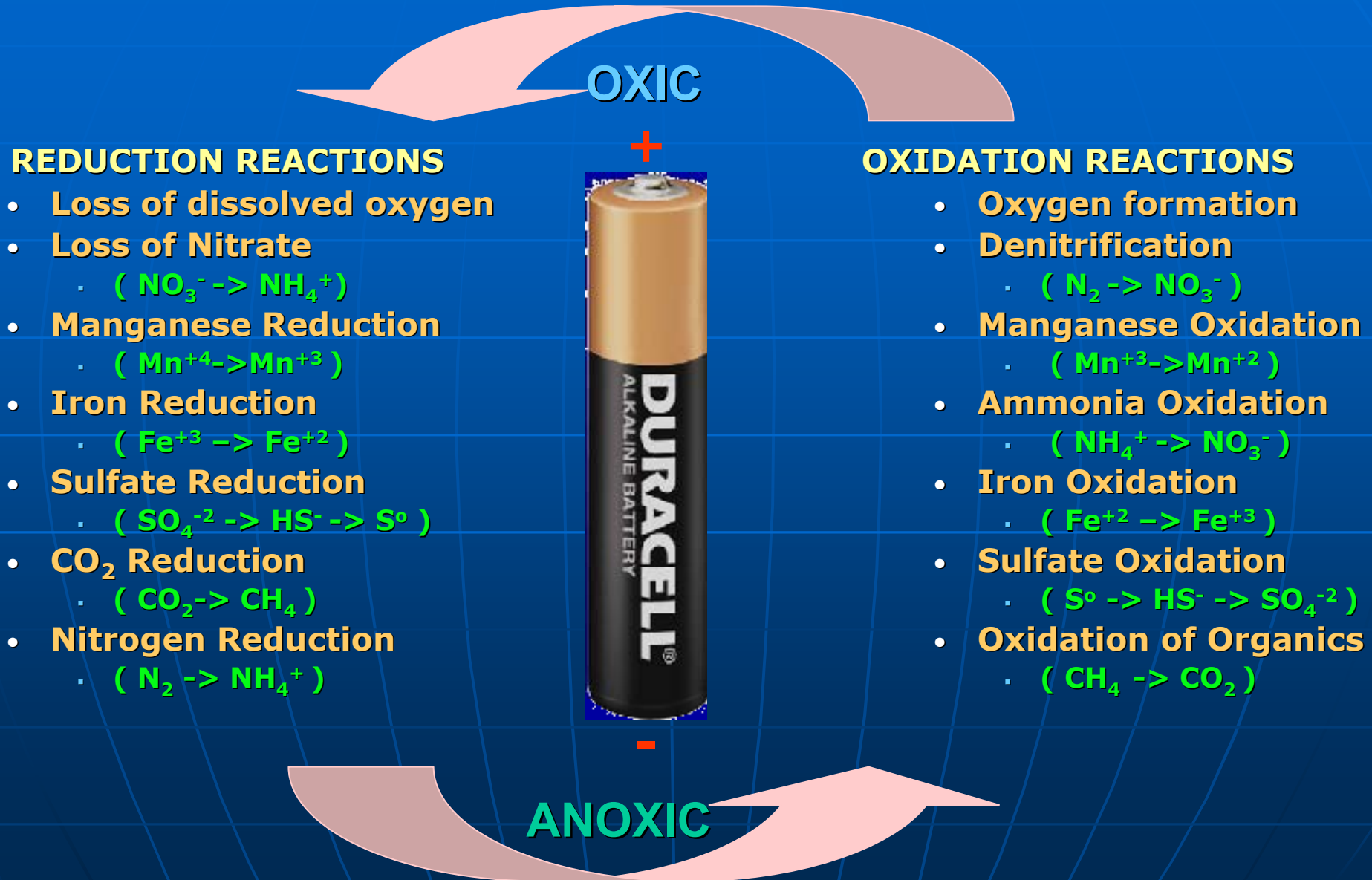
Figure 6-5: Division 5 Carryover Storage



**LONG TERM DROUGHT IS HAVING A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON RECHARGE**

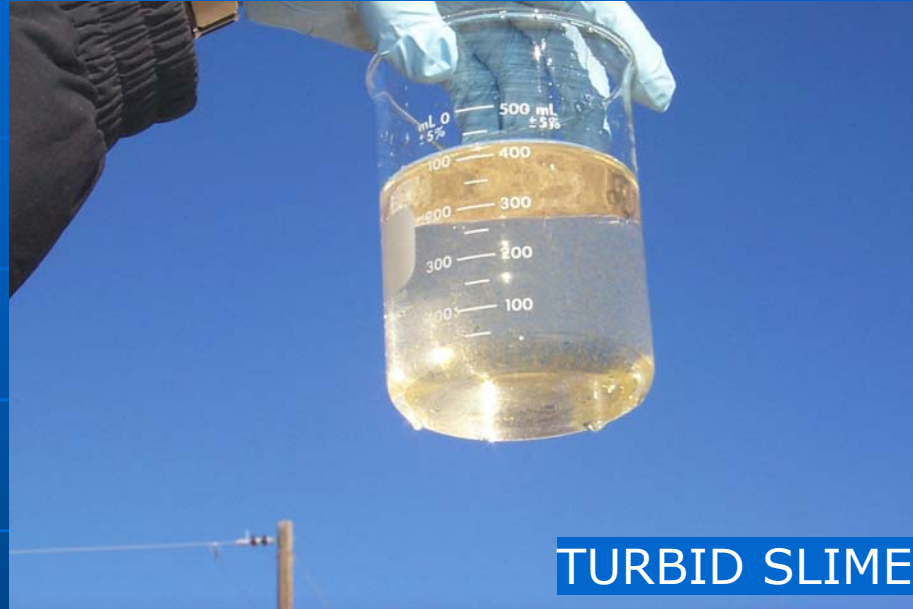


# CHEMICAL REACTIONS IN AQUIFERS ARE MEDIATED BY NATURAL BACTERIA



# BACTERIA CAN SEVERELY IMPACT THE AESTHETIC QUALITY OF WATER

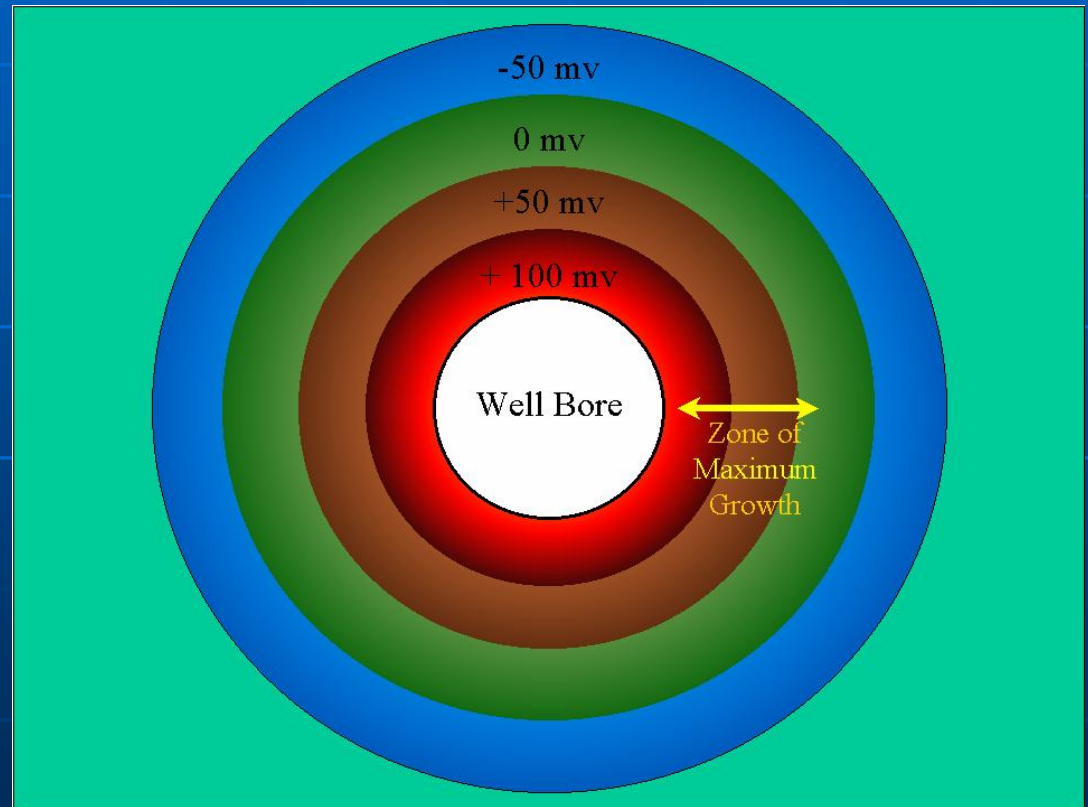
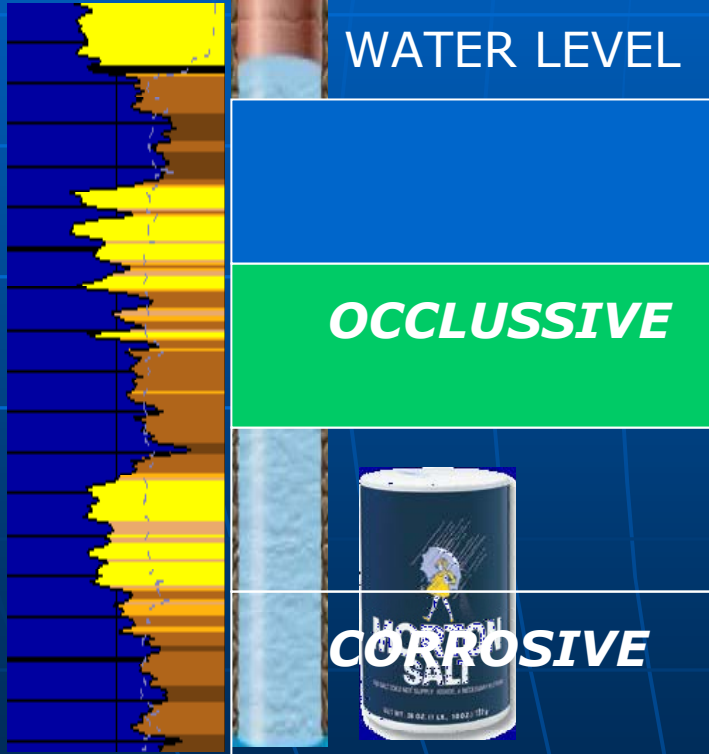
**80% OF WELL  
CLOGGING  
EVENTS  
MEDIATED BY  
BACTERIA**



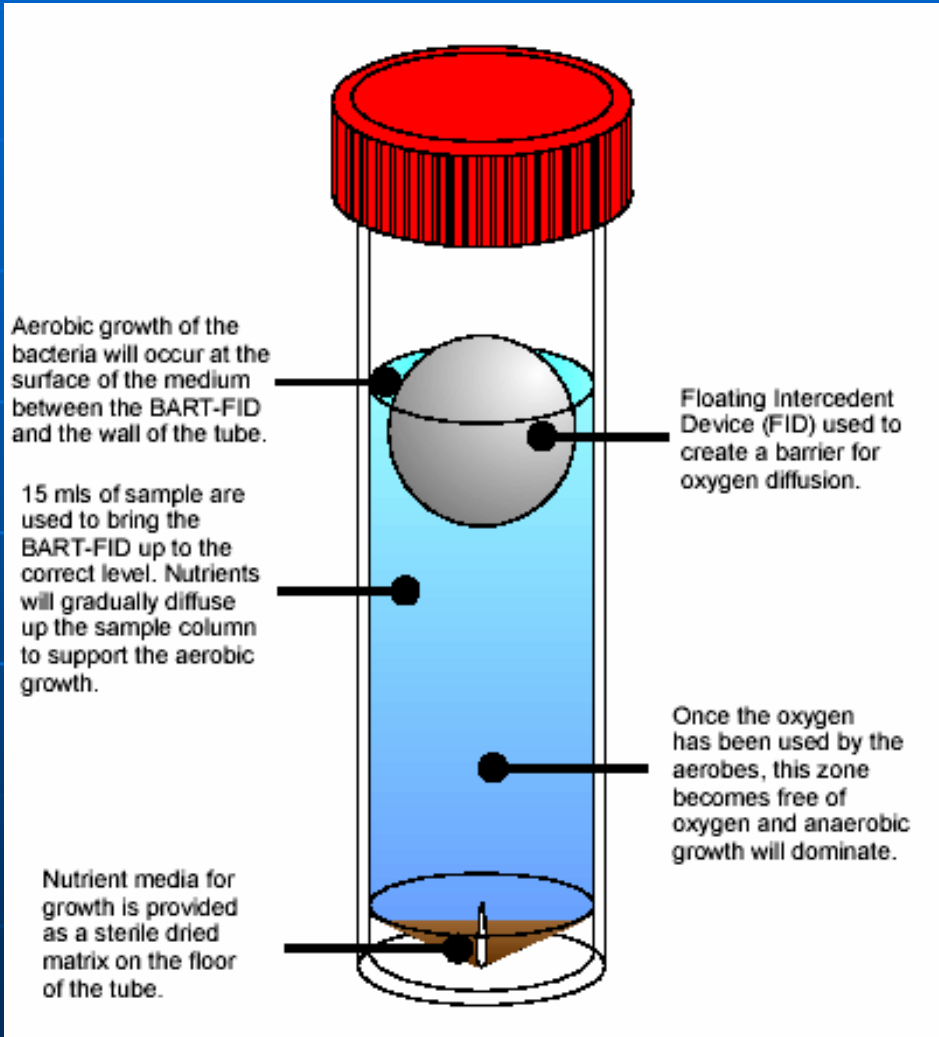
# STAGNANT WATER PROMOTES THE FOLLOWING NATURAL REACTIONS THAT DETERIORATE WATER QUALITY



# VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL DISTRIBUTION OF BACTERIAL ZONES CAN GRADUALLY AFFECT OVERALL WELL YIELD AND MIXING RATES BETWEEN AQUIFERS TAPPED BY A WELL



# BIOLOGIC ACTIVITY REACTION TESTS (BART™) TO CHECK FOR PRESENCE OF BACTERIA



**SRB – SULFATE REDUCING BACTERIA**  
**IRB – IRON RELATED BACTERIA**  
**HAB – AEROBIC HETEROTROPHIC**  
**SLYM – SLIME FORMING BACTERIA**

# RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TIME LAG (IN DAYS TO FIRST REACTION) AND BACTERIAL COLONY-FORMING UNITS

TIME LAG (days)	IRB CFU	SRB CFU	HAB CFU	SLYM CFU
0.5	3,981,072	3,981,072	6,309,573	6,309,573
1.0	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,981,072	3,981,072
1.5	630,957	630,957	630,957	630,957
2.0	100,000	100,000	398,107	398,107
3.0	10,000	39,811	1,000	39,811
4.0	3,981	10,000	100	1,000
5.0	1,000	3,981	10	398
6.0	100	1,000	10	100
7.0	100	100	10	10
8.0	100	100	10	10

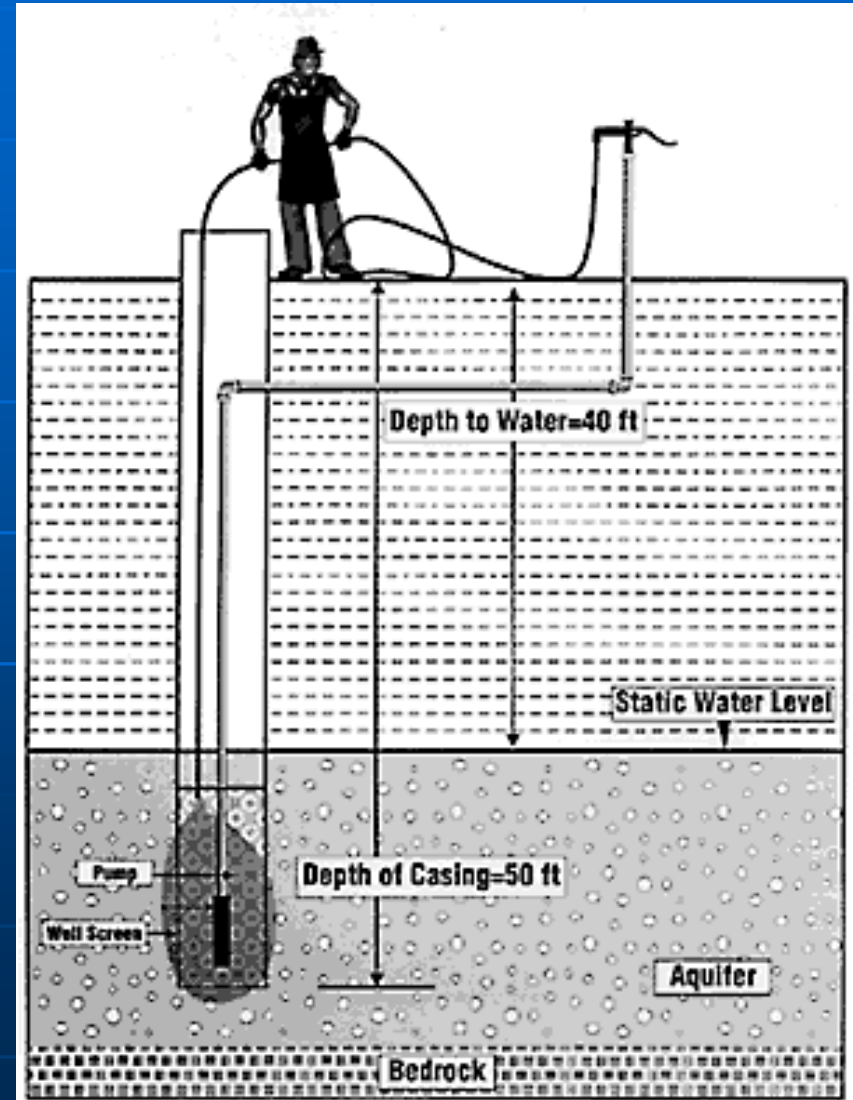
# APPROACHES TO ALLEVIATING BACTERIAL FOULING

- **MECHANICAL AGITATION OF THE WELL BORE**
  - **SURGING**
  - **WATER JETTING**
  - **SCRUBBING**
  - **AIR SPARGING**
- **FLUSHING TO REMOVE SUSPENDED OR SOLUBLE DEBRIS THAT HAVE BEEN PHYSICALLY REMOVED BY MECHANICAL AGITATION.**
- **ACIDIFICATION TO SOLUBLIZE MINERALS AS WELL AS THE POLYSACCHARIDE PORTION OF BIOLOGICAL SLIMES.**
  - **THE THREE MOST COMMONLY USED ACIDS**
    - **HYDROCHLORIC (HCl)**
    - **SULFAMIC (H<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>S)**
    - **HYDROXYACETIC (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>).**
- **THE USE OF BACTERICIDES TO SUPPRESS BACTERIAL POPULATIONS.**
  - **SHOCK DISINFECTION**

CONSULT YOUR WATER WELL PROFESSIONAL

# WHEN TO SHOCK DISINFECT YOUR WATER WELL

- **WHEN LAB RESULTS INDICATE PRESENCE OF BACTERIA**
- **WHEN COLOR AND ODOR INDICATE THE PRESENCE OF BACTERIA**
- **UPON COMPLETION OF A NEW WELL OR AFTER PUMP REPLACEMENT OR REPAIR**
- **WHEN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IS OPENED FOR REPAIRS OR MAINTENANCE**
- **FOLLOWING CONTAMINATION BY FLOOD WATER**





# CONCLUSIONS

- CHANGES IN WATER YIELD AND QUALITY ARE NATURAL
- BE AWARE OF CHANGES
- MAKE SURE YOU KNOW HOW YOUR WATER WELL IS CONSTRUCTED
- TAKE THE TIME TO LEARN HOW TO INTERPRET YOUR WATER WELL LABORATORY DATA REPORTS
- EVALUATE RESULTS BASED ON WATER WELL CONSTRUCTION AND SEASONAL CHANGES
- ACT ON RESULTS...NEGLECT WILL RESULT IN DAMAGE THAT IS DIFFICULT TO REMEDIATE
- REGULARLY INSPECT AND TREAT YOUR WATER WELL TO OPTIMIZE YIELD AND WATER QUALITY
- WHEN IN DOUBT, CONSULT A PROFESSIONAL

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Anthony W. Gorody, Ph. D. CPG-9798**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**UNIVERSAL GEOSCIENCE CONSULTING, INC.**



**UGCI**