

Potentiometric Surface Map of the Bedrock Aquifers of Perry County, Indiana

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February 2019

Perry County, Indiana is located in the south-central part of the state and is entirely within the Ohio River Basin. It is bounded by Spencer, Dubois and Crawford counties to the west, northwest and northeast respectively. The Ohio River and the state of Kentucky lies to the south.

The mapped potentiometric surface contours represent lines of equal elevation relative to the measured groundwater levels in wells. In general, wells completed in a confined aquifer system are bound by impermeable layers and will have static water levels under hydrostatic pressure causing the water level to rise above the elevation of the aquifer resource. In contrast, an unconfined aquifer system is not bound by impermeable layers; therefore, the water level will not be under hydrostatic pressure and will not rise above the aquifer resource.

Static water level measurements in individual wells used to construct the potentiometric surface map are indicative of the water level at the time of well completion. Therefore, current site specific conditions may differ due to local or seasonal variations in measured static water levels.

Coordinate locations of water well records were physically obtained in the field, determined through address geocoding, or reported on water well records. Elevation data were obtained from a digital elevation model. Elevation and location quality control/quality assurance procedures were utilized to refine or remove data where errors were readily apparent.

Wells producing from bedrock are limited in production and are sparse throughout portions of the county. This is primarily due to bedrock as a limited aquifer resource. Therefore, potentiometric surface elevation contours have not been extended through these areas of the county.

Bedrock throughout much of the western and central areas of the county includes sandstone and shale of the Pennsylvanian Raccoon Creek Group. To the central and eastern areas of the county bedrock includes shale, limestone and sandstone of the Mississippian Buffalo Wallow, Stephensport, and West Baden Groups.

There are 230 located wells that are completed in bedrock and are utilized towards the mapping of the bedrock potentiometric surface. Total well depths range from 12 to 487 feet with depth to the bedrock surface from 1 to 150 feet below surface. Due to the extreme difference in reported static water levels of deeper wells that likely transcend into a different aquifer system, reported

depths of 200 feet or less were considered a priority in the mapping of the contours where such differences are present.

Potentiometric surface elevations range from a high of 790 feet mean sea level (msl) in the northeast part of the county near Oriole, to a low of 370 feet msl in the southwest area of the county near the Ohio River and to the southeast area of the county near Rome.

Generalized groundwater flow direction for the county is towards major drainage relevant to the basin. Therefore, in Perry County groundwater flow is towards the Ohio River and its tributaries throughout the county.