

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
Richard Kneip, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
Vern W. Butler, Secretary

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Duncan J. McGregor, State Geologist

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GROUND-WATER STUDY FOR THE  
CITY OF HECLA

by

Betsy Slugg

and

Assad Barari

Science Center  
University of South Dakota  
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## GROUND-WATER STUDY FOR THE CITY OF HECLA

This report contains the results of a special ground-water investigation conducted by the South Dakota Geological Survey around the City of Hecla, Brown County, South Dakota. The field work was conducted from June 22 to July 9 and August 5 to August 13, 1976. The investigation involved: (1) interpretation of the geology of the area, (2) drilling of 14 auger holes and 23 rotary holes, and (3) collection and analysis of 7 water samples. The location of test holes is plotted on figure 1, along with locations where water samples were taken. The results of the chemical analysis of the water samples can be found in table 1.

At present the City obtains its water supply from three wells in town. They are approximately 98 feet deep and yield water from a gravel outwash deposit about six feet thick. At the time of this report there are restrictions in town on lawn and garden watering. The present investigation was undertaken to locate a source of water to augment the present water supply

The project was financed by the South Dakota Geological Survey, the Oahe Conservancy Sub-District, and the City of Hecla.

Hecla is located on the glacial Lake Dakota Plain. These sediments consist of very fine sand, silt, and clay. Beneath this sequence, till, and in some places gravel are encountered. The gravel occurs at elevations of 1150 to 1230 feet above the mean sea level, and was encountered in 14 of the 37 holes. The gravel is important as an aquifer, and the purpose of the field work was to locate a gravel deposit as close to town as possible. The gravel has higher permeability than the lake deposits and

yields more water than the fine sand. Figure 2 shows the saturated thickness of gravel at each hole.

To the west of the City of Hecla three test holes penetrated gravel. These holes were No. 2, 3, and 5 (see figs. 1, 2, and app. A).

Along the south edge of town four holes were drilled. Test hole 20 was a shallow hole and did not reach the depth at which the gravel usually occurred. Hole 21 had 2 feet of gravel at a depth of 100 feet below the land surface and Hole 22 had 3 feet of gravel from 86 to 89 feet. Test hole 23 penetrated 7 feet of gravel; however, the drilling was halted due to twisting of the bit, and the total thickness of gravel was not penetrated.

Four holes were drilled along the north edge of town, but no gravel layer was found. An observation well was constructed in fine sand, but the attempts to pump water failed due to the fine nature of the sand and clay.

Twenty holes were drilled to the east of town and the gravel appeared most promising in this direction. Holes No. 1, 9, 10, and 11 had from 1 to 15 feet of gravel, (see fig. 1, 2, and app. A). An observation well was placed in hole 11 where 6 feet of gravel was encountered at a depth of 78 to 84 feet. This observation well pumped quite well with an air compressor and the results of the water sample analysis appear below in this report. In the vicinity of the present city wells, from 7 to 15 foot thick gravel was found in test holes 23, 25, and 32 (see figs. 1, 2, and app. A).

The area around Test Hole No. 25 is recommended for additional



testing. Test Hole No. 25 penetrated 15 feet of gravel from the depth of 90 to 105 feet below the land surfaces, but Test Hole No. 26,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile northeast of Test Hole 25, did not penetrate any significant gravel layer. Test Holes 24 and 33 were not deep enough to determine the extent of the gravel layer. An observation well constructed in Test Hole No. 25 was pumped satisfactorily by an air compressor. The results of the water sample analysis from this hole is designated by W-7 in table 1. This water is comparable to the present city water (W-2, table 1), and has slightly less dissolved solids and hardness than the city water.

As was previously mentioned, the lake deposits, due to clay content, do not yield significant water. On the other hand, the gravel deposits could yield significant water if the deposit is extensive and contains little clay. The most extensive gravel is to the northeast of town in the vicinity of holes 1, 9, 10, and 11. This area should be considered as a future water source for the City if the recommended site around test hole 25 is found to be unsatisfactory.

A total of seven water samples were analyzed in this study, and the results appear in table 1, along with the recommended limits for chemical constituents. All of the samples were found to be over the recommended limit for manganese, and all but sample 1 exceeded the limit for iron. Samples 3 and 4 had values over the limit for total solids, and sample 3 in addition, has an excess of chlorides. Values for all of the other chemical constituents were within the recommended limits for all seven samples.

Water sample 2 is from the City well, and shows high values,

i.e., those exceeding the limit in total iron (2.0 ppm) and manganese (0.25 ppm). Sample 7, taken from an observation well at the recommended area, also shows an excess of total iron (1.5 ppm) and manganese (0.25 ppm), however the value of total iron is lower than that of the present well. Values for total solids for these two samples are 640 ppm for sample 2, from the City well, and 548 ppm for sample 7, from the observation well. The water from the recommended area appears therefore, to be comparable to, if not better than, the water presently used by the City.

If the City should decide to test the area southeast of town in the vicinity of Test Hole 25, it is recommended that an engineering firm licensed in South Dakota be hired to coordinate the drilling. If the thickness of gravel and clay content is satisfactory, it should be converted to a pump test well. A pump test should be conducted to determine the quantity of water which could be pumped. Also, water samples should be collected and analyzed for quality.

Before a permanent well is drilled, the City officials should contact the Division of Water Rights, Department of Natural Resource Development, to obtain water rights and a permit to drill a municipal well, and the South Dakota Environmental Protection Agency to determine the biological and chemical suitability of the water.

This report was prepared by:

Betsy Slugg  
Assad Barari  
August, 1976

TABLE 1. RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF WATER SAMPLES COLLECTED IN THE HECLA AREA

Sample	Location of water sample	Parts per million										
		Depth of well	Calcium	Sodium	Magnesium	Chlorides	Sulfate	Iron	Manganese	Nitrate Nitrogen	Hardness CaCO <sub>3</sub>	Total Solids
A			--	---	--	250	500 <sup>1</sup>	0.3	0.05	10.0	---	1000 <sup>1</sup>
W- 1	NENESWSW sec. 25 T128N, R61W, irrigation, 10 feet to water	78	35	180	15	155	25	0.1	0.7	0.5	150	870
W- 2	SESESESE sec. 22 T128N, R61W, city well, 30 feet to water	98	65	90	26	25	100	2.0?	0.25	0.5	270	640
W- 3	SWNWSWN sec. 23 T128N, R61W, Schroeder	20?	30	550	15	360	450	0.5	0.06	0.5	135	1736
W- 4	SESENE sec. 22 T128N, R61W, S Treeby	--	95	210	35	70	440	2.0	0.45	0.5	380	1188
W- 5	NENWNE sec. 27 T128N, R61W, S Treeby	95?	45	90	22	30	100	0.8	0.15	0.5	202	516
W- 6	NWNWNE sec. 23 T128N, R61W, Observation Well Hole 11, 5 feet to water	98	30	150	21	35	140	0.6	0.50	0.5	160	540
W- 7	SESWSWSW sec. 23 T128N, R61W, Observation Well, Hole 25	108	50	90	23	35	70	1.5	0.25	0.5	220	548

A - Drinking water standards, U.S. Public Health Service (1962). All samples were analyzed by the South Dakota Geological Survey

1 Modified for South Dakota by the Department of Health (written communication, Water Sanitation Section, September 24, 1968)



APPENDIX A

LOGS OF TEST HOLES DRILLED IN THE HECLA AREA



























































































