

QUESTION: When a new ground-water monitoring well is installed at a hazardous waste management facility, how much developing of the well must be done prior to sampling for analytical purposes?

ANSWER: Upon completion of installation of the well intake, the monitoring well must be developed to remove any contamination or formation damage that may have occurred as a result of well drilling and to remove fines from the natural formation to provide a particulate free discharge. Clay particles deposited on the surface of the formation during drilling should be removed, along with a sufficient quantity of water to ensure the removal of any fluids introduced into the formation during drilling. The development process should also effectively loosen and remove finer particles from the formation matrix. The Agency cannot give specific guidance for well development because the geologic formation identified as the "uppermost aquifer" will change from site to site and well to well. Sampling when the water is "muddy" will not give reliable and reproducible results.

SOURCE: George Dixon