

PPC 9431.1984(01)

AQUIFER AND UPPERMOST AQUIFER, DEFINITION OF

PERMIT POLICY Q & A REPORT

SEPTEMBER 10, 1984

PERMIT POLICY QUESTION & ANSWER

QUARTERLY REPORT

Groundwater Protection Standards

1. Question: Do the definitions of "uppermost aquifer" and "aquifer" include the top most saturated clay layer even though that stratum is not used as a groundwater resource? 40 CFR 260.10.

Answer: The 26 July 1982 preamble suggests that "significant yield" of groundwater is determined on a case by case basis, depending on site specific factors. Significant yield in the Southwest is likely to be a much lower quantity than significant yield in the East. In addition, the flow from a number of well systems can be totaled in order to reach the level of significance. Thus, if the saturated clay layer can produce a significant yield of groundwater from a single well or from a combination of wells, then that layer may meet the definition of an aquifer. If that layer is also the formation nearest to the natural ground surface or is hydraulically interconnected to such a surface, it meets the definition of uppermost aquifer.