

Ground-Water Quality and Levels, and Surface-Water, Meteorological and Other Environmental Data Collected at Two Storm- Water Retention Basins Near DuPont, Washington, Water Years 1998-2000

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CONTENTS

Abstract	1
Introduction	1
Description of Study Area.....	2
Well-Numbering System.....	3
Study Design and Methods of Data Collection.....	3
Ground-Water Quality	4
Analytical Methods	5
Results of Quality-Control Samples.....	5
Ground-Water-Level Measurements.....	6
Pond Water-Level, Meteorological, and Other Environmental Data Collection	8
Ground-Water Quality Data	10
Ground-Water Level Data	14
Pond Water-Level Data.....	16
Other Meteorological and Environmental Data	17
Summary	25
References Cited	25

FIGURES

Figure 1.	Map showing location of two storm-water retention basins and data-collection sites near Dupont, Washington	2
Figure 2.	Diagram showing well-numbering system used in Washington	3
Figure 3.	Graph showing water-surface altitudes in wells 19N/01E-35J01 and 19N/01E-35J06 near two retention basins near DuPont, Washington, during 1998-2000, and daily mean difference between water-surface altitudes in those same two wells.....	14
Figure 4.	Graph showing water level of pond in the gypsum-treated retention basin, and depth of the pond near the site of the meteorological station near DuPont, Washington, June 1998 to September 1999	16
Figure 5.	Graphs showing daily average incoming solar radiation and net radiation at the gypsum-treated retention basin near DuPont, Washington, 1998-99	17
Figure 6.	Graphs showing daily average air temperature and water-vapor-pressure deficit, and daily average wind speed at the gypsum-treated retention basin near DuPont, Washington, 1998-99	18
Figure 7.	Graph showing daily precipitation at the gypsum-treated retention basin near DuPont, Washington, June 1998 to July 1999	19
Figure 8.	Graph showing measured and estimated submersion depths of each of the four soil/water-temperature probes and daily average water temperatures sensed by the submerged probes in the intermittent pond in the gypsum-treated retention basin near DuPont, Washington, 1998-99	20
Figure 9.	Graphs showing pond water depth and daily average energy flux into the basin floor as sensed with soil heat flux plates near the meteorological station in the gypsum-treated retention basin near Dupont, Washington, 1998-99	24

TABLES

Table 1.	Construction data for monitoring wells installed near retention basins near DuPont, Washington, May 1997	4
Table 2.	Concentrations of constituents and properties measured in blank samples collected in the field prior to sampling the monitoring wells near DuPont, Washington, 1998-99	6
Table 3.	Concentrations and precision data for detected inorganic constituents and properties in replicate samples from wells installed near retention basins near DuPont, Washington, 1998-99	7
Table 4.	Automatically monitored water-level, meteorological, and other environmental variables, the sensors that were used to monitor them, and the manufacturer or distributor of the sensors	8
Table 5.	Field measurements and concentrations of inorganic and organic constituents and properties measured in water samples collected from monitoring wells installed near retention basins near DuPont, Washington, May 1998 through June 1999	11
Table 6.	Water levels for selected wells installed near retention basins near DuPont, Washington, 1998-99	15

CONVERSION FACTORS, VERTICAL DATUM, AND BRAND NAME DISCLAIMER

CONVERSION FACTORS

Multiply	By	To obtain
acre	4,047	square meter
foot (ft)	0.3048	meter
kilopascal (kPa)	0.01	bar
	0.1450	pound per square inch
inch (in.)	25.4	millimeter
joule (J)	0.2388	calorie
miles per hour (mi/h)	0.4470	meter per second
micrometer (μm)	3.937×10^{-5}	inch
mile (mi)	1.609	kilometer
milligram (g)	3.527×10^{-5}	ounce, avoirdupois
square meter (m^2)	10.76	square foot
watt (W)	0.2388	calorie per second

Temperature in degrees Celsius ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) may be converted to degrees Fahrenheit ($^{\circ}\text{F}$) as follows:

$$^{\circ}\text{F} = 1.8 ^{\circ}\text{C} + 32.$$

Temperature in degrees Fahrenheit ($^{\circ}\text{F}$) may be converted to degrees Celsius ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) as follows:

$$^{\circ}\text{C} = (^{\circ}\text{F} - 32) / 1.8.$$

Chemical concentrations in water are given in milligrams per liter (mg/L) or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$). Milligrams per liter is a unit expressing the solute per unit volume (liter) of water. One thousand micrograms per liter is equivalent to one milligram per liter. For concentrations less than 7,000 mg/L, milligrams per liter is equivalent to "parts per million" and micrograms per liter is equivalent to "parts per billion."

Specific conductance is given microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius ($\mu\text{S/cm}$ at 25°C).

VERTICAL DATUM

Sea level: In this report "sea level" refers to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988.

Altitude, as used in this report, refers to distance above or below sea level.

BRAND NAME DISCLAIMER

Any use of brand, firm, or trade names and the use and distribution of specific products in this report are for identification purposes only, and do not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. No warranty is made for use of the products.

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ABSTRACT

Hydrologic, meteorological, and other environmental data were collected from water years 1998 to 2000 near two recently constructed storm-water retention basins near DuPont, Washington. A mixture of gypsum, grass seeds, and mulch was added to soils of one of the basins to slow infiltration by water. Six monitoring wells were installed in May 1997 near the two retention basins: one upgradient of the basins, four adjacent to the basin without gypsum, and one near the basin with the gypsum soil amendment. Water-quality samples were collected to monitor possible changes in ground-water chemistry. Ground-water levels in selected wells were measured both manually with a steel tape and with automatic monitoring systems. Water level of an intermittent pond in the gypsum-treated basin was monitored, as were selected meteorological and other environmental variables. The hydrologic, meteorological, and other environmental data are presented in this report.

INTRODUCTION

Storm-water runoff from highways and urban areas can be a source of contamination to ground water (Hoos, 1990; Granato, 1996). Retention ponds for storm-water runoff from highways commonly are

constructed to minimize runoff, erosion, and flooding, and potentially, to reduce amounts of contaminants in water recharging underlying ground-water systems. Possible mechanisms of contaminant reduction in water flowing through retention basins include volatilization and physical and biological breakdown of some contaminant organic compounds, and sorption of some contaminants, particularly trace metals, to sediments that then remain in the basin.

To better understand effects of storm-water retention basins on ground-water quality, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Transportation, began an investigation of two storm-water runoff retention basins along Interstate 5 at DuPont, Washington (fig. 1). The study, which began in 1997, included laboratory-based assessments of effects of selected infiltration media on infiltration rate and water quality, and field-based investigation of effects of the two retention basins on infiltration rates and ground-water quality. Results of the laboratory-based assessments have been published (Ames and others, 2001). The field-based investigation was terminated due to the poor hydrologic performance of the retention basins. This report describes the methods of data collection for the field-based investigation and it presents data for ground-water quality and levels, and surface-water, meteorological, and other environmental data collected at the retention basins during water years 1998 to 2000. The water year ends on September 30 and is named for the calendar year in which it ends.

