

How can I assist in the investigation?

Data Collection from privately owned wells

Rockland County has an estimated 6,000 to 8,000 wells. Many of them serve individual homes or businesses, and many more are unused or abandoned. Water-resource investigations that characterize large areas rely primarily on existing wells for data collection. **Any data collected from a well by USGS is made available to the owner.**

What kind of data can be collected from homeowner or other wells with pumps?

Ground-water-level measurements

(currently collected from about 80 wells around the County)

- Water level measurements typically take less than five minutes to complete.
- Well access is usually through a small access hole on the well cap.
- Depth to water in a well can be measured in two ways:
 - a sonic meter, which bounces a sound pulse off the water surface in the well and estimates the depth based on the travel time of the pulse back to meter
 - an electric water level measuring tape, which senses the water surface when the probe (which is disinfected) comes in contact with it. The water completes an electrical circuit, and meter beeps.

Basic water chemistry (Summer '06) Collected from an outside tap.

Borehole Geophysical Surveys

If a well does not contain a pump, a great deal more subsurface information can be collected with borehole geophysical instruments, which measure the properties of the water and bedrock in the well. The instruments are physically lowered down the well. Borehole data can include:

- locations of water-bearing fractures in the well
- optical and acoustic pictures down the well
- temperature and dissolved solids of the ground water
- water flow within the well

Contact Paul Heisig at USGS 518-285-5648 or pmheisig@usgs.gov

If your well is located in an area with little ground-water data, your well may provide information critical to our understanding of ground water in Rockland County. Thank You.