



DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENT  
and NATURAL RESOURCES

JOE FOSS BUILDING  
523 EAST CAPITOL  
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3182

denr.sd.gov

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Thursday, December 24, 2015  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Ron Duvall, 773-3352

### **DENR Announces New Interactive Observation Wells Map**

PIERRE, S.D. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has added a new interactive observation wells map to the department’s interactive database maps online at <http://denr.sd.gov/datagis.aspx>.

“To manage and protect the state’s ground waters, DENR’s Water Rights Program routinely collects data from 1,556 dedicated monitoring wells, which is crucial to making fact-based recommendations and decisions regarding water use from our aquifers,” said DENR Secretary Steve Pirner. “Most of those wells were constructed by DENR’s Geological Survey Program, but now DENR is making all of that ground water information available to everyone over the Internet. The Bureau of Information and Telecommunications developed an interactive Geographic Information System (GIS) map that is so sophisticated it can be searched for a particular well or location and then instantaneously produce a graph that illustrates how ground water levels in that well vary over time.”

The observation wells map is an updated version of a map previously available on the DENR website. The new map features searchable data from a statewide network of 1,556 observation wells with measurements for some wells going back more than 50 years. Historical measurements are available by locating a measured well on an interactive map or by searching using other attributes such as aquifer, reading dates or location. Measurements can be downloaded or a hydrograph can be displayed with the measurements plotted on a line graph for viewing online or printing.

Besides water levels, a host of other information for each well is included as well, such as the driller’s log, details of well construction, geologic subsurface formations encountered during the drilling, and results of periodic sampling and laboratory testing of the quality of the ground water.

The interactive observation wells map is in addition to the department’s interactive maps for oil and gas, construction aggregate, spills, closed and active regulated storage tanks, recyclable materials, water right dry draw location notices; permitted solid waste facilities and lake levels that have been available online. The maps show data from 1,900 files for oil and gas holes and geologic logs from 96,595 other holes; more than 4,600 active and closed construction aggregate mines across the state; more than 13,250 spill sites; about 5,000 closed and active regulated

storage tanks; more than 150 locations that take recyclable materials; 97,620 filings for water right dry draw location notices; and 200 permitted solid waste facilities; and 167 lake levels.

The interactive maps can be accessed from the department's homepage at <http://denr.sd.gov> under "One-Stop Shops" and "Data & Mapping."

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