

**TRICOUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
STANDARDS FOR DETERMINATION OF  
GROUND WATER ELEVATION**

Pursuant to R-317-503-2, ground water requirements of "Individual Wastewater Disposal Systems" R317-501 through R317-513, Utah Administrative Code and under authority of Utah Code Section 26A-1-121 Utah code Annotated, 1953, as amended, the TriCounty Health Department adopts the following policy regarding the procedures for the determination of ground water.

The elevation of the anticipated maximum ground water elevation shall be at least 2 feet below the bottom of the absorption system excavation. In order to ensure that this requirement can be met, the following procedures will be followed to determine the maximum ground water elevation.

When the "Site Assessment" conducted by TriCounty Health Department indicates that the depth of the shallowest expected water table is from 0-6 feet, or where past experience, soil structure, or historical information indicates that a potential ground water problem may exist, ground water observation wells must be constructed and the ground water table monitored for a period of one year. Any deviations from the one year monitoring period will be accepted only when the health department has reliable information as to the time of year that the ground water table is at the maximum ground water elevation. Unusually dry years and other climatological or environmental factors may require a longer monitoring period.

Observations and recordings of the observations must receive oversight from the health department. The frequency of monitoring must be pre-arranged with the health department. The monitoring schedule will take into account the season of the year and historical data as to the anticipated maximum high ground water elevation.

All costs associated with the excavation, construction, and placement of the monitoring wells will be the responsibility of the property owner. Qualified engineers may be required to do the monitoring. Fees may also be imposed by TriCounty Health Department's Board of Health to cover health department costs.



\_\_\_\_\_

Joseph B. Shaffer, M.A., M.B.A., E.H.S.  
TriCounty Health Department Environmental Health Director/Health Officer

R317-501 Individual Wastewater Systems

R317-501-1 Definitions

1.22 Ground Water – that portion of subsurface water that is in the zone of saturation, including underground streams.

1.23 Ground Water Table – the surface of a body of unconfined ground water in which the pressure is equal to that of the atmosphere.

R317-503-2 Ground Water Requirements

2.2 The maximum ground water table shall be determined by one or more of the following methods:

- A. Direct visual observation of the seasonal high stand of the shallow ground water table in a soil exploration pit.
- B. Regular monitoring of the water level in an observation well for a period of one year, or for the period of maximum seasonal ground water table.
- C. Observation of soil in a soil exploration pit for evidence of crystals of salt left by the ground water table; or chemically reduced iron in the soil, reflected by mottled coloring.