

Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation in February 2020

Notice of Monitoring Well Construction

In February 2020, four groundwater monitoring wells will be constructed by the provincial government in the Hullcar Valley area. This work is being undertaken in partnership with Splatsin. These wells will add to three existing provincial monitoring wells that were constructed in 2019.

The purpose of these wells is to monitor water quality in the Hullcar Aquifer and understand groundwater flow. Results from this monitoring will help evaluate the success of the 2018 Hullcar Aquifer Response Plan which aims to ensure healthy and safe groundwater.

The new monitoring wells are planned to be installed at the approximate locations shown in the plan below. Actual locations may differ due to constraints identified during surveying or drilling. These locations have been selected to improve the understanding of groundwater in the valley.



Figure 1: 2019 Hullcar Aquifer Monitoring Well Installation, Hullcar Aquifer

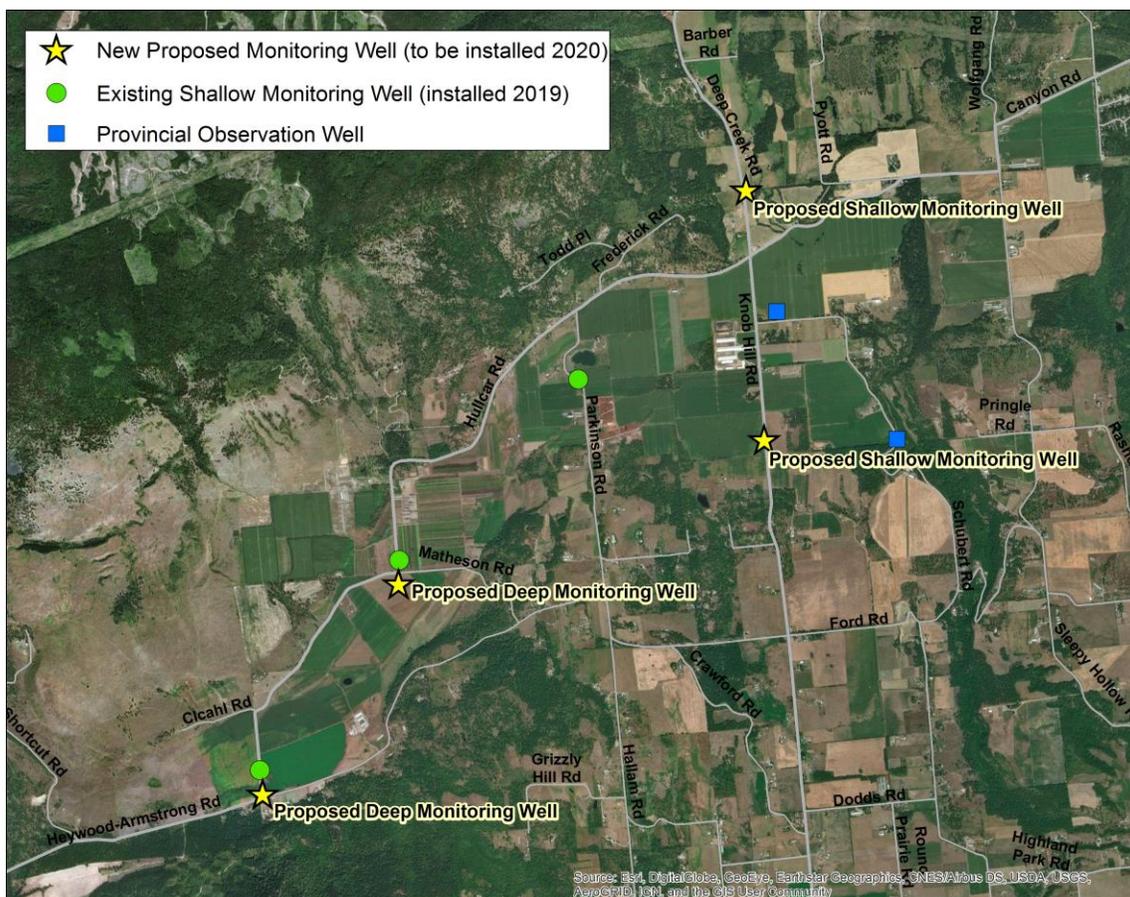


Figure 2: Current and Planned Monitoring Wells in the Hullcar Aquifer

Hullcar Aquifer Response Plan Background

The Hullcar Aquifer Response Plan identified the need for a monitoring program to address knowledge gaps and assess the effectiveness of actions to address nitrate contamination in the Hullcar Aquifer(s). In collaboration with Splatsin, the Province has been working toward building a monitoring plan that includes the installation of groundwater monitoring wells to test for water quality and groundwater levels.

Previous Groundwater Monitoring Work

In March 2019, the Province installed three monitoring wells in the shallow Hullcar Aquifer 103 to monitor seasonal groundwater level fluctuations, sample shallow groundwater quality and determine groundwater flow directions.

Groundwater samples were taken from these wells in March and September 2019 to test for water quality. Instruments have also been installed in these wells to measure groundwater levels on an hourly basis.

The information collected from these monitoring wells complements ongoing work by the Ministry of Agriculture to measure nitrate levels in soil and evaluate the risk of nitrate reaching groundwater during the fall and winter months.

Next Steps

The information collected from the monitoring wells installed in 2019 has been used to optimize the depth and locations of the four new groundwater monitoring wells and to support planning for the creation of future Deep Creek streamflow monitoring stations. Installation of the new monitoring wells is expected to be completed in February 2020. This work will be coupled with continued monitoring of the Steele Springs water intake.

As outlined in the Hullcar Aquifer Response Plan, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Development and Rural Development will review the data collected in the monitoring wells and produce an annual summary report. The data review will inform whether further analysis or data collection to assess groundwater flow and migration or further remediation efforts are needed. This reporting will be publicly available through the Hullcar Aquifer Information Website.

Project Contacts

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More Information

- **BC Government Hullcar Aquifer Information Website**
www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/site-permitting-compliance/hullcar-aquifer