Designation: D5299 – 99(Reapproved 2005)

Standard Guide for Decommissioning of Groundwater Wells, Vadose Zone Monitoring Devices, Boreholes, and Other Devices for Environmental Activities[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5299; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide covers procedures that are specifically related to permanent decommissioning (closure) of the following as applied to environmental activities. It is intended for use where solid or hazardous materials or wastes are found, or where conditions occur requiring the need for decommissioning. The following devices are considered in this guide:

1.1.1 A borehole used for geoenvironmental purposes (see Note 1),

1.1.2 Monitoring wells,

1.1.3 Observation wells,

1.1.4 Injection wells (see Note 2),

1.1.5 Piezometers,

1.1.6 Wells used for the extraction of contaminated groundwater, the removal of floating or submerged materials other than water such as gasoline or tetrachloroethylene, or other devices used for the extraction of soil gas,

1.1.7 A borehole used to construct a monitoring well, and

1.1.8 Any other vadose zone monitoring device.

1.2 Temporary decommissioning of the above is not covered in this guide.

NOTE 1—This guide may be used to decommission boreholes where no contamination is observed at a site (see Practice D420 for details); however, the primary use of the guide is to decommission boreholes and wells where solid or hazardous waste have been identified. Methods identified in this guide can also be used in other situations such as the decommissioning of water supply wells and boreholes where water contaminated with nonhazardous pollutants (such as nitrates or sulfates) are present. This guide should be consulted in the event that a routine geotechnical investigation indicates the presence of contamination at a site.

NOTE 2—The term "well" is used in this guide to denote monitoring wells, piezometers, or other devices constructed in a manner similar to a well. Some of the devices listed such as injection and extraction wells can be decommissioned using this guide for information, but are not specifically covered in the text.

NOTE 3—Details on the decommissioning of multiple-screened wells are not provided in this guide due to the many methods used to construct these types of wells and the numerous types of commercially available multiple-screened well systems. However, in some instances, the methods presented in this guide may be used with few changes. An example of how this guide may be used is the complete removal of the multiple-screened wells by overdrilling.

1.3 Most monitoring wells and piezometers are intended primarily for water quality sampling, water level observation, or soil gas sampling, or combination thereof, to determine quality. Many wells are relatively small in diameter and are used to monitor for hazardous chemicals in groundwater. Decommissioning of monitoring wells is necessary to:

1.3.1 Eliminate the possibility that the well is used for purposes other than intended,

1.3.2 Prevent migration of contaminants into an aquifer or between aquifers,

1.3.3 Prevent migration of contaminants in the vadose zone,

1.3.4 Reduce the potential for vertical or horizontal migration of fluids in the well or adjacent to the well, and

1.3.5 Remove the well from active use when the well is no longer capable of rehabilitation, or has failed structurally; no longer required for monitoring; no longer capable of providing representative samples or is providing unreliable samples; or required to be decommissioned; or to meet regulatory requirements.

NOTE 4—The determination of whether a well is providing a representative water quality sample is not defined in this guide. Examples of when a representative water quality sample may not be collected include the biological or chemical clogging of well screens, a drop in water level to below the base of the well screen, or complete silting of a tail pipe. These conditions may indicate that a well is not functioning properly.

1.4 This guide is intended to provide information for effective permanent closure of wells so that the physical structure of the well does not provide a means of hydraulic communication between aquifers or react chemically in a detrimental way with the environment.

1.5 The intent of this guide is to provide procedures that when followed result in a reasonable level of confidence in the integrity of the decommissioning activity. However, it may not be possible to verify the integrity of the decommissioning

[1] This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D18 on Soil and Rockand is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D18.21 on Groundwater and Vadose Zone Investigations.

Current edition approved Jan. 1, 2005. Published February 2005. Originally approved in 1092. Last previous edition approved in 1999 as D5299 – 99. DOI: 10.1520/D5299-99R05.

procedure. At this time, methods are not available to substantially determine the integrity of the decommissioning activity.

1.6 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The SI units given in parentheses are for information only.

1.7 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.8 *This guide offers an organized collection of information or a series of options and does not recommend a specific course of action. This document cannot replace education or experience and should be used in conjunction with professional judgment. Not all aspects of this guide may be applicable in all circumstances. This ASTM standard is not intended to represent or replace the standard of care by which the adequacy of a given professional service must be judged, nor should this document be applied without consideration of a project's many unique aspects. The word" Standard" in the title of this document means only that the document has been approved through the ASTM consensus process.*

NOTE 5—If state and local regulations are in effect where the decommissioning is to occur, the regulations take precedence over this guide.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*[2]

C150 Specification for Portland Cement

D420 Guide to Site Characterization for Engineering Design and Construction Purposes (Withdrawn 2011)[3]

D4380 Test Method for Density of Bentonitic Slurries

D5088 Practice for Decontamination of Field Equipment Used at Waste Sites

D5092 Practice for Design and Installation of Ground Water Monitoring Wells

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 **abandonment**—see *decommissioning*.

3.1.2 *attapulgite clay*—a chain-lattice clay mineral. The term also applies to a group of clay minerals that are lightweight, tough, matted, and fibrous.

3.1.3 *borehole television log*—a borehole or well video record produced by lowering a television camera into the borehole or well. This record is useful in visually observing downhole conditions such as collapsed casing or a blocked screen.

3.1.4 *blowout*—a sudden or violent uncontrolled escape of fluids or gas, or both, from a borehole.

3.1.5 *caliper log*—a geophysical borehole log that shows to scale the variations with depth in the mean diameter of a cased or uncased borehole.

3.1.6 *cement, API, Class A*—a cement intended for use from the surface to a depth of 6000 ft (1828 m). This cement is similar to ASTM Type I cement.

3.1.7 *cement, API, Class B*—a cement intended for use from the surface to a depth of 6000 ft (1828 m) when conditions require moderate- to high-sulfate resistance. This cement is similar to ASTM Type II cement.

3.1.8 *cement, API, Class C*—this cement is intended for use from the surface to a depth of 6000 ft (1828 m) when conditions require high early strength. This cement is similar to ASTM Type III cement. Also available as a high sulfate resistant type.

3.1.9 *cement, API, Class G*—this cement is intended for use from the surface to a depth of 8000 ft (2438 m). It can be used with accelerators or retarders to cover a wide range of well depths and temperatures. No additions other than calcium sulfate or water, or both, can be interground or blended with the clinker during manufacture of the cement. Also available as several sulfate-resistant types.

3.1.10 *cement, API, Class H*—this cement is intended for use from the surface to a depth of 8000 ft (2438 m). It can be used with accelerators or retarders to cover a wide range of well depths and temperatures. No additions other than calcium sulfate or water, or both, can be interground or blended with the clinker during manufacture of the cement. Also available as a sulfate-resistant type.

3.1.11 *cement, API, Class J*—this cement is intended for use from depths of 12 000 to 16 000 ft (3658 to 4877 m) under conditions of extremely high temperatures and pressures. It can be used with accelerators and retarders to cover a range of well depths and temperatures. No additions of retarders other than calcium sulfate, or water, or both, can be interground or blended with the clinker during manufacture of the cement.

3.1.12 *cement bond (sonic) log*—a borehole geophysical log that can be used to determine the effectiveness of a cement seal of the annular space of a well.

3.1.13 *channeling*—the process of forming a vertical cavity resulting from a faulty cement job in the annular space.

3.1.14 *curing accelerator*—a material added to cement to decrease the time for curing. Examples are sodium chloride, calcium sulfate (gypsum), and aluminum powder.

3.1.15 *curing retarder*—a material added to cement to increase the time for curing. Sodium chloride in high concentrations is an example.

3.1.16 *decommissioning (closure)*—the engineered closure of a well, borehole, or other subsurface monitoring device sealed with plugging materials. Decommissioning also includes the planning and documenting of all associated activities. A synonym is abandonment.

3.1.17 *decontamination*—the process of removing undesirable physical or chemical constituents, or both, from equipment to reduce the potential for cross-contamination.

3.1.18 *fallback*—shrinkage, settlement, or loss of plugging material placed in a borehole or well.

[2] For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

[3] The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

3.1.19 *fire clay*—a silicious clay rich in hydrous aluminum silicates.

3.1.20 *flow log*—a borehole geophysical log used to record vertical movement of groundwater and movement of water into or out of a well or borehole and between formations within a well.

3.1.21 *geophysical borehole log*—a log obtained by lowering an instrument into a borehole and continuously recording a physical property of native or backfill material and contained fluids. Examples include resistivity, induction, caliper, sonic, and natural gamma logs.

3.1.22 *grout*—material consisting of bentonite, cement, or a cement-bentonite mixture.

3.1.23 *grout pipe*—a pipe or tube that is used to transport cement, bentonite, or other plugging materials from the ground surface to a specified depth in a well or borehole. The material may be allowed to flow freely or it may be injected under pressure. The term tremie pipe is frequently used interchangeably.

3.1.24 *hydraulic communication*—the migration of fluids from one zone to another, with reference to this guide; especially along a casing, grout plug, or through backfill materials.

3.1.25 *multiple-screened wells*—two or more monitoring wells situated in the same borehole. These devices can be either individual casing strings and screen set at a specific depth, a well with screens in more than one zone, or can consist of devices with screens with tubing or other collecting devices attached that can collect a discrete sample.

3.1.26 *native material*—in place geologic (or soil) materials encountered at a site.

3.1.27 *overdrilling*—the process of drilling out a well casing and any material placed in the annular space.

3.1.28 *perforation*—a slot or hole made in well casing to allow for communication of fluids between the well and the annular space.

3.1.29 *permanent plugging*—a seal that has a hydraulic conductivity that is equivalent or less than the hydraulic conductivity of the geologic formation. This term is often used with uncased boreholes.

3.1.30 *plow layer*—the depth typically reached by a plow or other commonly used earth turning device used in agriculture. This depth is commonly one to two feet (.3 m to .61 m) below land surface.

3.1.31 *plugging material*—a material that has a hydraulic conductivity equal to or less than that of the geologic formation(s) to be sealed. Typical materials include portland cement and bentonite.

3.1.32 *pre-conditioning*—an activity conducted prior to placing plugging material into a borehole in order to stabilize the hole.

3.1.33 *temporary decommissioning*—the engineered closure of a well intended to be returned to service at some later date (generally no more than six months). Temporary plugging should not damage the structural integrity of the well. Plugging materials consist of sand, bentonite, or other easily removed materials.

4. Summary of Guide

4.1 Information is provided on the significance of properly decommissioning boreholes and wells at sites containing or formerly containing solid or hazardous waste or hazardous materials or their byproducts, or that may be affected by solid or hazardous waste materials or their byproducts in the future. This guide may be used in situations where water quality in one aquifer may be detrimental to another aquifer either above or below the aquifer. The primary purpose of decommissioning activities is to permanently decommission the borehole or monitoring device so that the natural migration of groundwater or soil vapor is not significantly influenced. Decommissioned boreholes and wells should have no adverse influence on the local environment than the original geologic setting.

4.2 It is important to have a good understanding of the geology, hydrogeology, well construction, historic and future land use, chemicals encountered, and the regulatory environment for successful decommissioning to occur.

4.3 Various materials suitable for decommissioning boreholes and wells are discussed, including their positive and negative attributes for decommissioning. A generalized procedure is provided that discusses the process from planning through implementation and documentation. Examples of typical practices are provided in the appendix.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Decommissioning of boreholes and monitoring wells, and other devices requires that the specific characteristics of each site be considered. The wide variety of geological, biological, and physical conditions, construction practices, and chemical composition of the surrounding soil, rock, waste, and groundwater precludes the use of a single decommissioning practice. The procedures discussed in this guide are intended to aid the geologist or engineer in selecting the tasks required to plan, choose materials for, and carry out an effective permanent decommissioning operation. Each individual situation should be evaluated separately and the appropriate technology applied to best meet site conditions. Considerations for selection of appropriate procedures are presented in this guide, but other considerations based on site specific conditions should also be taken into account.

NOTE 6—Ideally, decommissioning should be considered as an integral part of the design of the monitoring well. Planning at this early stage can make the decommissioning activity easier to accomplish. See Practice D5092 for details on monitoring well construction.

5.2 This guide is intended to provide technical information and is not intended to supplant statutes or regulations. Approval of the appropriate regulatory authorities should be an important consideration during the decommissioning process.

6. Materials

6.1 The materials used for construction of a monitoring well or other monitoring device to be decommissioned in part determines how it is decommissioned. Various materials are available for use in plugging boreholes and monitoring wells. This section provides information on these materials.

6.2 *Casing and Screen Materials:*

6.2.1 Various materials are used for well casing and screen. The most common materials used are: PVC, PTFE, fiberglass, carbon steel, stainless steel, and aluminum. Typically, the same material is used for casing and screen in a well, however, in some instances different materials may be used in a well to achieve a particular purpose such as corrosion protection, reduction of material costs, or improving the integrity of groundwater or soil vapor samples. This guide does not specifically address the use of more than one type of casing or screen material used in a well, however, the same decommissioning methods can frequently be used when more than one material is used (for example, PVC and PTFE, or stainless steel and carbon steel) in a well.

6.2.2 In selecting a well decommissioning method, PVC, PTFE, and fiberglass wells can be decommissioned using similar methods as all three types of materials tend to be low in tensile strength and easy to drill out or perforate. Appendix X1 provides a discussion on various procedures that can be used for the decommissioning of PVC wells and by reference PTFE and fiberglass wells.

6.2.3 Wells constructed of carbon steel, stainless steel, and heavy walled aluminum can be decommissioned using similar methods as these materials tend to have a higher tensile strength that allows for the casing to be removed. Appendix X1 provides a discussion on various procedures that can be used for the decommissioning of steel wells and by reference stainless steel and aluminum wells.

6.3 *Plugging Materials:*

6.3.1 Plugging materials should be carefully chosen for well closure to be permanent. Basic material characteristics are listed as follows:

6.3.1.1 Plugging materials should not react with contaminants or adversely react with groundwater or geologic materials.

6.3.1.2 Plugging materials used in decommissioning wells, borings, etc. should have hydraulic conductivity (saturated condition) that is comparable to or lower than that of the lowest hydraulic conductivity of the geologic material being sealed.

6.3.1.3 Plugging materials must have sufficient structural strength to withstand pressures expected from native conditions.

6.3.1.4 Plugging materials must maintain sealing capabilities and not degrade due to chemical interaction, corrosion, dehydration, or other physical or chemical processes. Materials should maintain their design characteristics for the length of time contamination is present at the site.

6.3.1.5 Plugging materials should not be readily susceptible to cracking or shrinkage, or both.

6.3.1.6 Plugging materials must be capable of being placed at the position in the well or borehole in which they are needed and must have properties that reduce their unintended movement vertically and horizontally.

6.3.1.7 Plugging materials must be capable of forming a tight bond and seal with well casing and the formation.

6.3.1.8 Plugging materials must have properties that eliminate leaching or erosion of the material, under the conditions the material will be subjected. These include vertical or horizontal movement, or both, or contact with groundwater or other existing conditions.

NOTE 7—The grain size of plugging material used in decommissioning operations conducted in areas where thick vadose zones occur should be coarser than materials used in areas where thin vadose zones or shallow saturated conditions occur. This is necessary as water is not transported effectively in coarse-grained materials under negative pore pressures. Coarse-grained materials should not be used where saturated conditions are likely to exist during the period of time that hazardous materials can be expected to occur at the site. It is important to determine the lithology and grain size distribution of materials adjacent to the borehole or well prior to selection of plugging materials.

NOTE 8—If coarse-grained materials are used to decommission the borehole or well, a layer of fine-grained material (such as cement or bentonite, or both) 1 or 2 ft (.3 or .61 m) thick should be placed at 10 ft (3 m) intervals in the borehole in the saturated zone. This layer should extend 2 to 3 ft (.61 to .91 m) above the highest expected level saturation is expected based on historical information on the water table for unconfined aquifers. A similar thickness of these materials should be used for confined aquifers. A similar 5-ft (1.5-m) seal of a low-permeability material should be placed near the ground surface to reduce the potential for entrance of fluids at the ground surface.

6.4 *Commonly Used Materials*—Subsections 6.2 and 6.3 introduced the general criteria that must be evaluated during the process of selecting the appropriate procedure and material for plugging a specific well. Because well construction and local geological conditions are site specific, a wide variety of materials and procedures may be used to complete the closure.

6.4.1 Section 6.4 presents a review of the plugging materials most commonly used to decommission monitoring wells. Table 1 summarizes these materials and lists the most important considerations (positive and negative) for their use. A detailed discussion of each material is presented in the following subsections.

6.4.2 *Portland Cement*—Portland cement may be used in any of its various forms to meet placement, strength, and durability criteria listed in 6.1. The amount of shrinkage or settling of neat cement is dependent on the amount of water used. Higher water to cement ratios tend to increase shrinkage (**1**).[4]

6.5 *Specification C150:*

6.5.1 *Type 1*—Type 1 cement, a general-purpose material, is the most commonly used cement. This material has a tendency to develop a relatively high heat of hydration when used in confined situations and has relatively low-sulfate resistance.

6.5.2 *Type II*—Somewhat slower strength development than Type I; however, Type II cement has moderate heat of hydration and moderate sulfate resistance.

6.5.3 *Type III*—Type III cement is used when high early strength is desired. This material is not commonly used in decommissioning activities because of its ability to quickly set. Care must be used in working with this material.

6.5.4 *Type IV*—Type IV cement is used where a low heat of hydration is desired. It is not commonly used in decommissioning activities.

[4] The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to a list of references at the end of the text.

TABLE 1 Properties of Common Plugging Materials

Plugging Material	Description	Positive Attributes	Negative Attributes
ASTM C-50 Portland Cement			
Type I	Most commonly used type of cement for plugging	Forms a good seal when used with bentonite in 3 to 5 % concentration. Commonly available and can be purchased premixed on-site.	High heats of hydration may be a problem in PVC-cased wells. Can shrink and crack; low-sulfate resistance. Should not be used in the presence of strong acids or in low-pH environments.
Type II	Similar to Type I, but with a moderate heat of hydration.	Moderate heat of hydration. Moderate resistance to sulfate.	Somewhat slower strength development than Type I; expensive. Can shrink and crack. Can be difficult to use. Should not be used in the presence of strong acids or in low-pH environments.
Type III	High early strength.	May prove useful in situations where high early strength is needed, such as borehole walls that have a tendency to collapse.	Not a common cement. Can set very quickly before decommissioning is completed. Should not be used in the presence of strong acids or in low-pH environments.
Type IV	Low heat of hydration.	May prove useful in situations where a low heat of hydration is required	Not a common cement. Should not be used in the presence of strong acids or in low-pH environments.
Type V	Similar to Type I, with high resistance to sulfate and brine.	High resistance to sulfate and brine. Low heat of hydration.	Ultimate strength is less than Types I and III. Expensive; should not be used in the presence of strong acids or in low-pH environments. Can be difficult to use. Can shrink or crack.
K	Expansive cement.	Basically Type I or Type II Portland Cement with additions (tricalcium sulfo aluminate for example) to provide for expansion. Expansion is generally in the range from 0.05 to 0.20 % Good resistance to sulfate attack.	
API 10			
Class A	Similar to ASTM Type I.	Can be used to a depth of 6000 ft (1828 m). Forms a good seal when used with bentonite in 3 to 5 % concentration. Commonly available and can be purchased premixed on-site.	High heats of hydration may be a problem in PVC-cased wells. Can shrink and crack; low-sulfate resistance. Should not be used in the presence of strong acids or in low-pH environments.
Class B	Similar to ASTM Type II.	Can be used to depth of 6000 ft (1828 m). Moderate heat of hydration. Moderate resistance to sulfate. Available as a high-sulfate resistant variety.	Somewhat slower strength development than Type I; expensive. Can shrink and crack. Can be difficult to use. Should not be used in the presence of strong acids or in low-pH environments.
Class C	Similar to ASTM Type III.	Can be used to a depth of 6000 ft (1828 m).	Can set very quickly before decommissioning is completed. Should not be used in the presence of strong acids or in low-pH environments. Can shrink and crack.
Class G	Useful in a wide range of temperatures and depths through the use of accelerators or retarders.	Can be used to a depth of 8000 ft (2438 m). Available as a sulfate-resistant variety.	Should not be used in the presence of strong acids or in low-pH environments. Can shrink and crack.
Class H	Useful in a wide range of depths and temperatures through the use of accelerators or retarders.	Can be used to a depth of 8000 ft (2438 m). Available only as a moderate sulfate type.	Should not be used in the presence of strong acids or in low-pH environments. Can shrink and crack.
Class J	Intended for use from a depth 12 000 to 16 000 ft (3658 to 4877 m).	Has use where extremely high temperatures and pressures occur.	Should not be used in the presence of strong acids or in low-pH environments. Can shrink and crack.
Pozzolanic cement	Addition of silicious materials to ASTM Type V or API Class A cement.	Good resistance to corrosive conditions and in reducing the permeability of cement.	Many types of materials can be used that can result in variable results.
Epoxy cements	Vinyl ester resins.	Good chemical resistance to acids and bases. Can use available equipment to place cement.	Very expensive. Poor chemical resistance to chlorinated hydrocarbons and acetic aid. Should be used only by experienced personnel. Water accelerates curing, must use diesel oil to precondition hole (diesel may increase contamination of site if hydrocarbons are a concern).
Bentonite			
Pellets	Granular bentonite compressed into a tablet	Uniform in size. Easy to use. Produces a low permeability seal.	Must be hydrated after placement. Shrinkage may occur when desiccated or when in contact with high concentrations of organic compounds (greater than 2 %) or materials that are strongly acidic or alkaline. Expensive.
Chips	Raw mined montmorillonite in the form of chunks ¼ to ¾ in. (.64 to 1.91 m) in size.	Inexpensive. No mixing equipment required. Forms a low-permeability seal.	Difficult to place. Must be hydrated after placement. Less swelling than beneficiated bentonite. Shrinkage may occur when desiccated when in contact with high concentrations of organic compounds (greater than 2 %) or materials that are strongly acidic or alkaline.
Granular	Raw mined montmorillonite crushed and seared to an 8 to 20-mesh size.	Can be placed at depth in dry holes. Forms a low- permeability seal.	Difficult to place in holes containing water as it quickly hydrates. Can bridge in hole. May desiccate when in contact with high concentrations of organic compounds (greater than 2 %) or materials that are strongly acidic or alkaline causing shrinkage.

6.5.5 *Type V*—Type V cement has high resistance to sulfate, and brine solutions. This material has ultimate strength development somewhat less than either Types I or II.

6.5.6 Type K cement is expansive and can be used to compensate for shrinkage. This cement is essentially Type I or more commonly Type II Portland Cement with additives to

TABLE 1 *Continued*

Plugging Material	Description	Positive Attributes	Negative Attributes
Powdered	Pulverized and seared bentonite that passes a 200-mesh screen. Used as drilling mud or as an additive to cement.	Used with cement to compensate for shrinkage (under saturated conditions). Other additives can be used to inhibit swelling, etc. Retards cement set; lowers heat of hydration.	May not be a desirable plugging material in deep vadose zones due to the drying out of the material, resulting in cracking. Difficult to place in holes containing water, as it quickly hydrates. Can bridge in hole. May desiccate when in contact with high concentrations of organic compounds (greater than 2 %) or materials that are strongly acidic or alkaline causing shrinkage.
High solids clay grout	Powdered bentonite (200 mesh) mixed with fresh water to form a slurry with a minimum of 20 % solids and a density of 9.4 lb/gal (1126 Kg/m^3 g/L).	Does not shrink during curing. Low density reduces formation losses. Forms a low-permeability seal that stays flexible as long as it is hydrated.	May not be a desirable plugging material in deep vadose zones due to the drying out of the material, resulting in cracking. May desiccate when in contact with high concentrations of organic compounds (greater than 2 %) or materials that are strongly acidic or alkaline causing shrinkage. A low-strength material subject to expansion under low-pressure differentials such as artesian conditions.

produce expansion. It can be of use in plugging situations where water-tightness is important. Type K cement contains calcium sulfoaluminate. When mixed with water, the hydration causes an expansion ranging from approximately 0.05 to 0.20 % (**2**).

6.6 *API Cements* (**3**):

6.6.1 *Class A*—Class A cement corresponds closely to ASTM Type 1. This cement is intended to be used from the surface to a depth of 6000 ft (1828 m).

6.6.2 *Class B*—Class B cement corresponds closely to ASTM Type II. It is intended for use from the surface to a depth of 6000 ft (1828 m) and is also available as a high-sulfate resistant variety.

6.6.3 *Class C*—Class C cement corresponds closely to ASTM Type III. It is intended for use from the surface to a depth of 6000 ft (1828 m). It is also available as a high-sulfate resistant variety.

6.6.4 *Class G*—Class G cement is intended for use from the surface to a depth of 8000 ft (2438 m) and can be used with accelerators or retarders to cover a wide range of depths and temperatures. The cement is also available as a high-sulfate resistant variety.

6.6.5 *Class H*—Class H cement is intended for use from the surface to a depth of 8000 ft (2438 m). It can be used with a wide variety of accelerators and retarders to cover a wide range of depths and temperatures. It is available only as a moderate-sulfate resistant type.

6.6.6 *Class J*—This cement is intended for use from a depth of 12 000 to 16 000 ft (3658 to 4877 m) where extremely high temperatures and pressures can be expected to occur.

6.6.7 *Other Cements*—Other cements have been developed that may have applicability in decommissioning activities. These include the following:

6.6.7.1 Ultralight cements with a slurry density that can be as low as 6 lb/gal (719 cm Kg/L). This material can be made by foaming the cement with nitrogen or through the addition of hollow glass microspheres between 60 and 315 µm in diameter. The latter forms a slurry of between 9 and 12 lb/gal (1078 and 1438 Kg/L). Ultralight cements and microspheres have been reported (**4**) for cement unconsolidated sands and for plugging cavernous formations and lost circulation zones. Reference (**5**) provided similar information on microspheres. Microspheres can also be used in high-pressure applications when it may be desirable to limit density increases. Another advantage is the low water/cement ratio due to the low water absorbency and low density (**5**).

6.6.7.2 *Pozzolanic-Portland Cements*—These cements consist of silicious materials that develop into a cement in the presence of lime and water. Both natural materials of volcanic origin such as perlites (volcanic ashes), heat-treated clays, shales, tuffs, opaline cherts, diatomaceous earth and artificial materials consisting of byproducts from glass factories, furnace slag, and fly ash have been used (**2, 4, 6**). The large variety of materials that can be used as a source for pozzolans may result in variable results.

6.6.7.3 Pozzolans act to extend cement and decrease density. The specific gravity of fly ash ranges from 2.3 to 2.7 (depending upon the source) while portland cement is 3.1 to 3.2 (**2**). These materials can also provide improved resistance to corrosive fluids. Table 2 provides a comparison of sulfate resistance between ASTM Type V cement with and without pozzolans.

6.6.7.4 The improved resistance to corrosive materials is accomplished in part as many pozzolans contain zeolites which have the ability for ion exchange between the corrosive material and the alkaline component in the cement (**7**). Secondly, the use of pozzolans also decreases cement permeability over time. This occurs as a result of the increased percentage in hydrated cement containing materials resulting from the release of calcium hydroxide and the silica combining with lime from the cement to form a stable material (**8**).

6.6.7.5 Pozzolans are added to portland cement by adding 74 lb (33.6 Kg) (as fly ash) per sack of cement. If perlites are used, 2 to 6 % of bentonite by weight is needed to keep the perlite from floating (**9**).

TABLE 2 Comparison of ASTM Type V Cement With and Without Pozzolan Materials[A]

Cement Type	Relative Degree of Sulfate Attack	Percentage of Water Soluble Sulfate (as SO_4) in Soil, ppm	Sulfate (as SO_4) in Water Samples, ppm
V	Severe	0.20 to 2.00	1 500 to 10 000
V (plus pozzolan)	Very severe	2.00 or more	10 000 or more

[A]See Ref **(4)**.