



Designation: D 5474 – 93 (Reapproved 2000)

Standard Guide for Selection of Data Elements for Ground-Water Investigations¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 5474; 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 the selection of data elements for the documentation of ground-water sites. The data elements are described in four ASTM standards outlining information that may be collected at ground-water sites. Examples of specific investigations are given with the logic of why to select individual and combinations of data elements to meet the requirements of the studies.

NOTE 1—A ground-water site is any source, location, or sampling station capable of producing water or hydrologic data from a natural stratum from below the surface of the earth. A source or facility can include a well, spring or seep, and drain or tunnel (nearly horizontal in orientation). Other sources, such as excavations, driven devices, bore holes, ponds, lakes, and sinkholes, that can be shown to be hydraulically connected to the ground water, are appropriate for the use intended.

NOTE 2—The four ASTM standards that describe the data elements for ground water are Practice D 5254 and Guides D 5408, D 5409, and D 5410.

1.2 Systematic and consistent data collection are necessary for the investigation of the availability and the protection or restoration of ground-water resources. The level of detail, precision and bias, and the type of data that need to be collected depend on the objective of the study, the expected complexity of the system, and the resources available for the investigation. This guide presents ideas on what information should be collected for specific studies, why certain data elements are mandatory, and the importance to current and future investigations of maintaining quality control on the collection and retention of these data. This guide focuses on those data elements that are gathered at the field-site location and are used to assist in interpreting the hydrology of the ground-water source and to meet regulatory requirements. Other analytical and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) considerations are addressed in other standards and beyond the scope of this guide.

1.3 *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 appro-*

priate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

1.4 *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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 653 Terminology Relating to Soil, Rock, and Contained Fluids²

D 5254 Practice for the Minimum Set of Data Elements to Identify a Ground-Water Site²

D 5408 Guide for the Set of Data Elements to Describe a Ground-Water Site; Part 1—Additional Identification Descriptors²

D 5409 Guide for the Set of Data Elements to Describe a Ground-Water Site; Part 2—Physical Descriptors²

D 5410 Guide for the Set of Data Elements to Describe a Ground-Water Site; Part 3—Usage Descriptors²

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 Except as listed as follows, all definitions are in accordance with Terminology D 653.

3.1.2 *code*—a suggested abbreviation for a component, for example, "G" is the code suggested for the galvanized iron component of data element casing material. The data element is in the "casing record" record.

3.1.3 *component*—a subdivision of a data element, for example, galvanized iron is one of 30 components suggested for data element casing material. The data element is in the casing record record.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D18 on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D18.21 on Ground Water and Vadose Zone Investigations.

Current edition approved Nov. 15, 1993. Published January 1994.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.08.

3.1.4 *data element*—an individual segment of information about a ground-water site, for example, casing material. The data element is in the casing record record.

3.1.5 *record*—denotes a set of related data elements that may need to be repeated to fully describe a ground-water site. For example, a well that consists of several diameters of casing from the top end to the bottom will need more than one casing record record (the record includes data elements depth to top, depth to bottom, diameter, casing material, and casing thickness) to fully describe the construction of the well. However, if only a single size of casing is used in the well, the record is utilized once.

3.1.6 *record group*—a set of related records. For example, the lift record group includes the lift record, power record, and standby record. Some record groups consist of only one record, for example, the spring record group includes only the spring record.

4. Summary of Guide

4.1 This guide describes four representative categories of investigations to demonstrate the logic of selecting data elements for the documentation of ground-water data. Included in this guide is a series of four tables that list the records (groups of data elements) used for the examples. The tables cross-reference the sections in this guide where specific explanations for data elements are found. A complete list of the individual data elements for each record is included in the text of this guide. The minimum set of data elements is standard and mandatory with all types of ground-water investigations and is presented in 6.1.3.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Data are gathered at ground-water sites for many purposes. Each purpose requires a different combination of data elements. However, it is mandatory that every ground-water site include a minimum set of data elements to uniquely identify that site by precisely locating with coordinates and political regimes, absolutely identifying the owner and data source, and clearly defining the basic site characteristics. This information is described in Practice D 5254.

5.2 As a part of a ground-water project, each site requires additional data elements, beyond the minimum set, to assist in the interpretation of the local and areal hydrology. As an example, for a hydrologic reconnaissance study of a ground-water basin, each well or spring site requires basic information concerning construction, water level, yield, geology, and water chemistry. Additional information is needed if the project is a waste facility investigation, usually to satisfy local, state, and federal environmental regulations.

6. Documentation

6.1 Introduction:

6.1.1 Four representative hydrologic projects with very different objectives are provided as examples to demonstrate what data elements may be selected for a comprehensive ground-water data file (Tables 1-4. When designing a ground-water data file, data elements from all four ASTM guides should be considered (see Note 2). Agencies or companies that

TABLE 1 General Resource Appraisal Investigation of an Area^A

Minimum Set of Data Elements (see 6.1.3):
Geographic Location (see 6.1.3.1)
Political Regimes (see 6.1.3.2)
Source Identifiers (see 6.1.3.3)
Individual Site Characteristics (see 6.1.3.4)
Additional Data Elements (see X1.6):
Geographic Location Record (see X1.6.1)
Owner Record (see X1.6.2)
Site Visits Record (see X1.6.3)
Other Identification Record (see X1.6.4)
Remarks Record (see X1.6.5)
Individual Site Characteristics Record (see X1.6.6)
Construction Record (see X1.6.7)
Casing Record (see X1.6.8)
Opening/Screen Record (see X1.6.9)
Lift Record (see X1.6.10)
Power Record (see X1.6.11)
Geophysical Log Record (see X1.6.12)
Geohydrologic Unit Record (see X1.6.13)
Hydraulics Record (see X1.6.14)
Aquifer Parameters Record (see X1.6.15)
Well Clusters Record (see X1.6.16)
Collector Well/Laterals Record (see X1.6.17)
Ponds Record (see X1.6.18)
Tunnel or Drain Record (see X1.6.19)
Spring Record (see X1.6.20)
Measuring-Point Record (see X1.6.21)
Water-level Record (see X1.6.22)
Discharge Record (see X1.6.23)
Water-Quality Record (see X1.6.24)
Field Water-Quality Record (see X1.6.25)

^ASee Appendix X1.

TABLE 2 Monitoring Project for a Waste-Disposal Facility^A

Minimum Set of Data Elements (see 6.1.3):
Geographic Location (see 6.1.3.1)
Political Regimes (see 6.1.3.2)
Source Identifiers (see 6.1.3.3)
Individual Site Characteristics (see 6.1.3.4)
Additional Data Elements (see X2.5):
Geographic Location Record (see X2.5.1)
Political Regime Record (see X2.5.2)
Source Identifiers Record (see X2.5.3)
Owner Record (see X2.5.4)
Site Visits Record (see X2.5.5)
Other Identification Record (see X2.5.6)
Remarks Record (see X2.5.7)
Individual Site Characteristics Record (see X2.5.8)
Construction Record (see X2.5.9)
Casing Record (see X2.5.10)
Opening/Screen Record (see X2.5.11)
Lift Record (see X2.5.12)
Geophysical Log Record (see X2.5.13)
Geohydrologic Unit Record (see X2.5.14)
Sample/Unconsolidated Material Record (see X2.5.15)
Sample/Consolidated Material Record (see X2.5.16)
Hydraulics Record (see X2.5.17)
Aquifer Parameters Record (see X2.5.18)
Measuring-Point Record (see X2.5.19)
Network Record (see X2.5.20)
Water-level Record (see X2.5.21)
Discharge Record (see X2.5.22)
Water-Quality Record (see X2.5.23)
Field Water-Quality Record (see X2.5.24)
Monitoring Site/Waste-Facility Record (see X2.5.25)
Decommissioning Record (see X2.5.26)

^ASee Appendix X2.

engage in widely diverse projects involving ground-water resources may require nearly all of the data elements described in the four standards. Those organizations should design a permanent file system to their specifications that includes these data.