

Abandoned city dumps a problem

By DALE BONER

What do you do with an abandoned city dump? The answer to this question confronts the officials of many Oregon counties, and Morrow County is no exception.

In 1969 and 1971, the Oregon Legislature passed legislation requiring completion of a solid

waste management plan. In cooperation with the Department of Environmental Quality, Morrow County was able to complete the study and suitable landfill sites were selected. Grant funds were available for the study.

When Morrow County makes the change to the new sanitary landfill system, pro-

teective measure must be taken on the Heppner and Lone dumps to reduce erosion of the waste material. The old dumps are an unsightly source of pollution and waste materials can be carried into the stream waters below.

Grant funds on a matching basis are available from the state for establishment of the new landfill. The program did not provide money for cleanup of the old dumps, and so Morrow County has started looking into a source of other funds. The estimated cost for elimination of the open dumps is \$35,000.

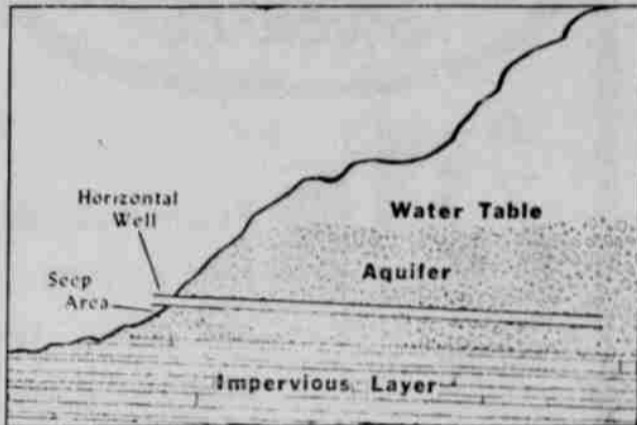
Grants have been made available for this type work in other states through the Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D) of the United States Department of Agriculture. Morrow County has made application to the Columbia-Blue Mountain RC&D for this assistance. The application was approved by the RC&D sponsors.

The next step is to plan the treatment needed for the old dumps. Alternatives could include burying at the present

location, seeding with grass and protecting from surface run-off by diversions or it could require loading the old material and depositing in the new landfill.

Whichever decision is made, the Morrow County Court and Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District are aware of the problem and are taking action to remedy.

Horizontal wells for more water



By GENE McLAUGHLIN

Stockmen have had difficulty developing stockwater at a suitable location for a reasonable cost.

Horizontal well drilling is a recent range water producing technique which has a tremendous potential for Morrow, Gilliam, Wheeler, and Grant county ranges. A horizontal well is simply a horizontally-cased well drilled into a hillside at a slight downward slope (1/2 inch per foot minimum) to tap impounded groundwater.

Possible well sites are located by evidence of a water seep, presence of water loving plants (Kentucky bluegrass, willow, dryland sedge, and rose bush), or observation and analysis of geologic formations.

This type of well drilling has mainly been done in Arizona, where 45 of 53 wells produce 0.25 or more gpm, with most

producing 3 to 10 gpm. The drilling rate usually varies from 3 to 9 inches per minute through heavy clay, decomposed granite, and soft rock, but the drilling rate may decrease to less than 1 inch per minute in hard rock.

The wells average \$500 per producing well, including \$50 for plumbing supplies. This cost includes the dry holes and time spent on site location and road building. It should be stressed that the cost and success of horizontal well drilling will depend on the driller's skill in site selection and geological character of the area.

The main advantages of horizontal wells over conventional spring developments are: reduced water loss, less possibility of contamination, improved chances for developing stock water, reduced maintenance and lower initial development cost.

Heppner NOR-GAS

Serving Morrow County for more than 25 years

with quick, clean, dependable

LP gas for farm, home

and industry

770 W. Riverside

676-9450

Will your land prosper?



What you know and do about soil conservation makes the big difference in future productivity for your farm. Investigate now . . . see how crop rotation, to prevent soil depletion; contour plowing, for sloping land; drainage, for wet land; and other tested techniques can help you prevent soil erosion . . . assure continued profitable production.

Port of Morrow Commission

1 MARINE DRIVE - BOARDMAN, OREGON - (503) 481-2695