

*Borehole Yield and Quality Testing at Ackermans, Blackheath.*

#### *REPORT:* GEOSS Report No: 2023/11-15

*PREPARED FOR:* Johan Roos KLS Consulting Engineers Email: johan.roos@kls.co.za

### *PREPARED BY:*

Reuben Lazarus GEOSS South Africa (Pty) Ltd Unit 12, Technostell Building, 9 Quantum Street, Technopark Stellenbosch 7600 Tel: (021) 880-1079 Email: [info@geoss.co.za](mailto:info@geoss.co.za) [\(www.geoss.co.za\)](http://www.geoss.co.za/)



*20 November 2023* 

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

GEOSS South Africa (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Johan Roos from KLS Consulting Engineers to conduct yield and groundwater quality testing of one borehole at Ackermans, Blackheath. The yield testing was undertaken by GEOSS SA from 6 to 9 November 2023. This included a Step Test, CDT and Recovery Test at the borehole and sampling of the groundwater for chemical analysis. It is recommended that groundwater abstraction occur within the below-mentioned parameters from the tested borehole. Aquifer over-abstraction is unlikely to occur if these rates are adhered to and if the borehole is managed through long-term monitoring data.



\* Typical water level expected during long-term production

Through long term water level monitoring data, the abstraction volumes can be optimised by adjusting the abstraction rate if required. It is recommended that the borehole is equipped with a variable frequency drive. This enables adjustments to the flow rate to be made if required, as determined by the hydrogeological analysis of water level and flow rate monitoring data.

From the laboratory results, groundwater from AB\_BH1 is of poor quality for potable supply. The primary cause of the poor groundwater quality is the elevated turbidity (22.5 NTU). According to the SANS 241-1:2015 standards the elevated turbidity will have aesthetic effects on the water such as poor colour. Similarly, the iron (1.935 mg/L), manganese (0.114 mg/L) and chloride (328.15 mg/L) will have aesthetic effects on the water such as poor taste and colour. Due to the elevated iron concentration, iron biofouling is likely to occur in the borehole if the borehole is not managed optimally. This will result in the clogging of the borehole as well as abstraction infrastructure. The groundwater from AB\_BH1 is currently not suitable for human consumption without treatment. Should the water be used for irrigation, crop selection should take into account the elevated chloride concentration.

To address the potential for iron to clog the borehole and abstraction infrastructure, it is recommended to maintain a constant and continuous pumping schedule as much as possible. Thus, should a daily volume of less than 250 560 L/d be required, it is recommended to decrease the

pumping rate and not the pumping duration. By pumping continuously instead of on a stop-start schedule, iron oxidation in the borehole is minimized, decreasing the amount of iron precipitation inside the boreholes and pumps.

To facilitate monitoring and informed management of the borehole, it is recommended to equip borehole with the following monitoring infrastructure and equipment:

- Installation of a 32 mm (inner diameter, class 10) observation pipe from the pump depth to the surface, closed at the bottom and slotted for the bottom  $5 - 10$  m. This was done during the testing activities in November 2023.
- Installation of an electronic water level logger (for automated water level monitoring)
- Installation of a sampling tap (to monitor water quality)
- Installation of a flow volume meter (to monitor abstraction rates and volumes)

This report is an important document for obtaining the legal compliance with regard to the use of the groundwater with the Department of Water and Sanitation, but does not constitute a Geohydrological Assessment report in support of a WULA, which would need to incorporate information from this report.

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### **ABBREVIATIONS**



### **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

- **Aquifer**: a geological formation, which has structures or textures that hold water or permit appreciable water movement through them [from National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998)].
- **Available drawdown**: Available drawdown in a borehole is the difference between the rest water level or piezometric surface and the depth that the water level may drop to (typically major water baring unit, boundary inflection or pump depth).
- **Dynamic water level**: the stabilised water level in the borehole during production over long periods of time.
- **Groundwater**: water found in the subsurface in the saturated zone below the water table or piezometric surface i.e., the water table marks the upper surface of groundwater systems.
- **Rest water level**: The groundwater level in a borehole not influenced by abstraction or artificial recharge.
- **Sustainable yield**: Sustainable yield is defined as the rate of withdrawal that can be sustained by an aquifer without causing an unacceptable decline in the hydraulic head or deterioration in water quality in the aquifer.
- **Transmissivity**: The rate at which water is transmitted through a unit width of an aquifer under a unit hydraulic gradient.

#### **Suggested citation for this report:**

GEOSS (2023). Borehole Yield and Quality Testing at Ackermans, Blackheath. Report Number: 2023/11-15. GEOSS South Africa (Pty) Ltd. Stellenbosch, South Africa.

#### **Cover photo:**

#### **AB\_BH1** during testing.

#### **GEOSS project number:**

2023\_10-5315\_A

#### **Reviewed by:**

Ashleigh Lakshuman (20 November 2023) and Julian Conrad (20 November 2023).

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### <span id="page-5-0"></span>**1. INTRODUCTION**

GEOSS South Africa (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Johan Roos from KLS Consulting Engineers to conduct yield and water quality testing of one borehole at Ackermans, Blackheath.

The borehole was tested by GEOSS SA from 6 to 9 November 2023, details of this are presented in this report. The borehole's details are presented in **[Table 1](#page-5-4)** below and spatially in **[Figure 2.](#page-6-0)** A borehole drill log is presented in **Appendix A**. The geological setting of the area indicates that the borehole is drilled through the sandy loam of the Springfontyn formation into the underlying greywacke and phyllites of the Tygerberg formation (**[Figure 3](#page-7-0)**).

<span id="page-5-4"></span>



*Figure 1: AB\_BH1 before (left) and after (right) testing.*

# <span id="page-5-3"></span><span id="page-5-1"></span>**2. YIELD TESTING**

### <span id="page-5-2"></span>*2.1 Methodology*

The yield testing was undertaken by GEOSS SA from 6 to 9 November 2023 and carried out according to the National Standard (SANS 10299-4:2003, Part 4 – Test pumping of water boreholes). This included a Step Test, Constant Discharge Test (CDT) and recovery monitoring of the borehole. For the Step Test, a borehole is pumped at a constant rate for one-hour intervals and the flow rates are incrementally increased for each step. This test is followed by a Constant Discharge Test where the borehole is pumped at a constant rate for an extended period of time, followed by recovery monitoring. The water level drawdown is monitored at pre-determined intervals during these tests (drawdown refers to the difference in water level from the rest water level (RWL) measured before commencement of the yield test). Raw data and measurements taken during the yield tests are presented in **Appendix B.**



<span id="page-6-0"></span>*Figure 2: Borehole Locality Map*



<span id="page-7-0"></span>*Figure 3: Geological Map with Property Boundary and Tested Borehole Position (1:50 000 Geological Map Series, 3318 DC Bellville)(CGS, 1984).*

The yield test data was analysed using the excel-based FC program, developed by the IGS (Institute for Groundwater Studies) in Bloemfontein. The sustainable yield of the borehole was calculated based upon long-term extrapolations of the CDT data according to (1) the Cooper-Jacob approximation of the Theis solution for confined aquifers, (2) the Barker Generalised Radial Flow Model (GRF) for hydraulic tests in fractured rock and (3) the Flow Characteristic (FC) method(s) using first and second derivative calculations. Boundary conditions are accounted for in multiplication factors to the rate of drawdown (derivatives), according to each of the above three methods. These three methods are briefly described below.

- 1. The Cooper-Jacob approximation of the Theis solution for confined aquifers was designed for porous media aquifers, where infinite acting radial flow (IARF) was observed during the pumping of a borehole. The application of this method to fractured aquifers was discussed by Meier et al (1998), concluding that T estimates using the Cooper-Jacob analysis gave an effective T for the fracture zone. The Cooper-Jacob analysis (and more accurately the Theis method) is therefore viable for analysing pumping test data for fractured aquifers where IARF is observed. The parameters are then used to predict theoretical long-term drawdowns.
- 2. The Barker GRF Model (Barker, 1988) uses fracture hydraulic conductivity, fracture storativity and flow domain to predict drawdown due to abstraction in a borehole in a fractured medium. By changing these values, a curve of drawdown predictions can be made to fit real-world data and therefore predict theoretical long-term drawdowns.
- 3. The FC methods are the Basic FC, the FC Inflection Point and the FC Non-Linear. The Basic FC and the FC Inflection Point methods make use of the derivatives of the drawdown data to predict theoretical long-term drawdowns and the scale-back factors are applied to selected available drawdowns. The FC Non-Linear method uses curve fitting of the Step Test data to predict theoretical long-term drawdowns. Due to the short nature of the Step Test, this method is usually not included if the other methods of analysis differ from it.

In all three methods, the available drawdown was carefully selected to ensure that the flow regime described by the analytical solution is not extrapolated beyond its applicable depth, which may easily result in an overuse of the resource. For AB\_BH1 this was 50 m (54 mbgl), based on the first fracture intersected in the borehole. A two-year extrapolation time without recharge to the aquifer was selected as per the recommendations within the FC method program.

Water samples were collected at the end of the yield test and submitted for inorganic chemical analyses.

### <span id="page-9-0"></span>*2.2 Yield Testing at AB\_BH1*

The yield testing was conducted between the  $6<sup>th</sup>$  and the  $9<sup>th</sup>$  of November 2023. The borehole was measured to a depth of 84 meters below ground level (mbgl). The test pump was installed at a depth of 78.12 mbgl, with the observation pipe ending at 75.32 mbgl. A 7.5 kw submersible pump was used to conduct the testing. The size of the pump was limited by the 135 mm steel casing installed in the borehole. The rest water level (RWL) at the start of the test was 3.08 mbgl.

During the step test, the water level was drawn down 17.08 meters below the rest water level (20.16 mbgl) during the 4<sup>th</sup> step at a rate of 4.8 L/s (17 280 L/hour, pump max). **[Figure 4](#page-9-1)** shows the time-series drawdown for the Step Test.



*Figure 4: Step Test drawdown data for AB\_BH1.*

<span id="page-9-1"></span>The water level was left to recover overnight. Before starting the CDT, the water level recovered to 3.97 mbgl. Based on the results of the Step Test, the planned 24-hour CDT was conducted at a rate of 4.6 L/s (16 560 L/hour). At the end of the 24-hour period, the water level had drawn down 23.6 meters below the rest water level (27.57 mbgl).

The semi-log plot of the drawdown from the CDT is presented in **[Figure](#page-10-0) 5**. The available drawdown (AD) is indicated with the horizontal red line at 50 m.

*Borehole Yield and Quality Testing at Ackermans, Blackheath.*



*Figure 5: Semi-Log Plot of drawdown during the CDT of AB\_BH1 (4.6 L/s).* 

<span id="page-10-0"></span>The recovery of the water level was monitored after the CDT and is presented in **[Figure 6](#page-10-1)**. The recovery was moderate, reaching 95.8% in 24 hours. Monitoring will be essential to determine the long term recovery of the borehole.



*Figure 6: Time-series drawdown and recovery for AB\_BH1 (4.6 L/s).*

<span id="page-10-1"></span>Several methods were used to assess the yield test data as presented in **[Table 2.](#page-11-1)** It is recommended that the borehole can be abstracted from at a rate of up to 2.9 L/s (10 440 L/hour) for up to

24 hours per day. The assessments were based on an available drawdown (AD) of 50 meters below the RWL of the CDT which equates to 54 mbgl.

<span id="page-11-1"></span>

$AB$ <sub>BH1</sub>							
Method	Sustainable Yield $(L/s)$	Late $*T(m^2/d)$	**AD used (m)				
Basic FC	3.5	11.3	50.0				
Cooper-Jacob	2.8	11.4	50.0				
FC Non-Linear	2.4	19	50.0				
Barker	2.9		50.0				
Average $Q$ _sust $(L/s)$	2.9						
<b>Recommended Abstraction</b>							
Abstraction Rate $(L/s)$	<b>Abstraction Duration (hours)</b>		<b>Recovery Duration (hours)</b>				
2.9	24						

*Table 2: Yield Determination - AB\_BH1*

*\*\*AD- Available Drawdown* 

*\* T – Transmissivity* 

No boreholes were monitored during the testing of AB\_BH1. Transmissivity was calculated through the Theis method using the drawdown response in AB\_BH1. The transmissivity of the system was calculated at 11.4  $m^2/d$ . A storativity value of  $5x10^4$  was used for the radius of influence calculation based on an average expected value of confined aquifers as report by (Todd, 1980). Based on the aquifer parameters the radius of influence was calculated for the recommended sustainable yield of the borehole. A drawdown of up to 6.3 meters can be expected 1 kilometre away from AB\_BH1 at the recommended sustainable rate  $(2.9 \text{ L/s}$  for 24 hours per day) after 2 years of abstraction without recharge (**Figure 7**). It must be noted that the Cooper-Jacob modelling of radius of influence is based on a homogenous, confined aquifer and therefore does not account for the heterogeneity associated with secondary aquifers (fractured rock). Thus, the radius of influence model will only provide an indication of how abstraction at AB\_BH1 will impact the water level in the fracture network. This suggests that the cone of depression will not expand equivalently in all directions surrounding the borehole, but will rather propagate along the fracture network within the secondary aquifer.



<span id="page-11-0"></span>*Figure 7: Radius of influence for AB\_BH1 at the recommended sustainable yield (2.9 L/s).*

### <span id="page-12-0"></span>**3. WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS**

Groundwater samples were collected from the borehole at the end of the yield test and submitted for inorganic chemical analyses to a SANAS accredited laboratory (Vinlab) in the Western Cape. The certificate of analysis for the sample is presented in **Appendix C**. The chemistry results obtained for the borehole have been classified according to the SANS241-1: 2015 standards for domestic water **[\(Table 3\)](#page-12-1). [Table 5](#page-13-0)** presents the water chemistry analysis results, colour coded according to the SANS241-1: 2015 drinking water assessment standards.



<span id="page-12-1"></span>

The limits and associated risks for domestic water as determined by the South African National Standard (SANS) 241:2015 are as follows, where:

- Health risks: parameters falling outside these limits may cause acute or chronic health problems in individuals.
- Aesthetic risks: parameters falling outside these limits indicate that water is visually, aromatically or palatably unacceptable.
- Operational risks: parameters falling outside these limits may indicate that operational procedures to ensure water quality standards are met may have failed.

The chemistry results obtained have also been classified according to the DWAF (1998) standards for domestic water. **[Table 4](#page-12-2)** enables an evaluation of the water quality with regards to the various parameters measured (DWAF, 1998). **[Table 6](#page-14-0)** presents the water chemistry analysis results colour coded according to the DWAF drinking water assessment standards.

<span id="page-12-2"></span>

<b>Blue</b>	(Class 0)	<b>Ideal water quality</b> - suitable for lifetime use.			
Green	(Class I)	Good water quality - suitable for use, rare instances of negative effects.			
<b>Yellow</b>	(Class II)	Marginal water quality - conditionally acceptable. Negative effects may occur.			
<b>Red</b>	(Class III)	<b>Poor water quality</b> - unsuitable for use without treatment. Chronic effects may occur.			
Purple	(Class IV)	Dangerous water quality - totally unsuitable for use. Acute effects may occur.			

*Table 4: Classification table for the groundwater results (DWAF, 1998)*

<span id="page-13-0"></span>



<span id="page-14-0"></span>

*Table 6: Classified production borehole results according to DWAF 1998.* 

From the chemical results presented in **[Table 5](#page-13-0)** and **[Table 6](#page-14-0)**, groundwater from AB\_BH1 is of poor quality for potable supply. The primary cause of the poor groundwater quality is the elevated turbidity (22.5 NTU). According to the SANS 241-1:2015 standards the elevated turbidity will have aesthetic effects on the water such as poor colour. Similarly, the iron (1.935 mg/L), manganese  $(0.114 \text{ mg/L})$  and chloride (328.15 mg/L) will have aesthetic effects on the water such as poor taste and colour. Due to the elevated iron concentration, iron biofouling is likely to occur in the borehole if the borehole is not managed optimally. This will result in the clogging of the borehole as well as abstraction infrastructure. The groundwater from AB\_BH1 is currently not suitable for human consumption without treatment. Should the water be used for irrigation, crop selection should take into account the elevated chloride concentration.

A number of chemical diagrams have been plotted for the groundwater sample and these are useful for chemical characterisation of the water and illustrate the similarities and differences in the water types. The Stiff Diagram is a graphical representation of the equivalent concentrations of the cations (positive ions) and anions (negative ions). This diagram shows concentrations of cations and anions relative to each other and direct reference can be made to specific salts in the water. From **[Figure 8](#page-15-0)**, AB\_BH1 is classified as a Sodium & Potassium/Chloride hydrofacies. This is expected of groundwater hosted in the greywacke and phyllites of the Tygerberg formation.



<span id="page-15-0"></span>*Figure 8: Stiff diagram of the groundwater sample.*

The Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR) of the groundwater is plotted in **[Figure 9](#page-16-1)**. AB\_BH1 plots as S1/C3, thus classified as low risk in terms of sodium adsorption and high risk in terms of salinity hazard. This graph is typically applicable to irrigation, however, is dependent on soil texture and crop type.



<span id="page-16-0"></span>*Figure 9: SAR diagram of the groundwater sample.*

### <span id="page-16-1"></span>**4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the information obtained from the yield test, the abstraction recommendation for the borehole is presented in **[Table 7](#page-16-2)**. The yield testing was conducted with a Step Test, Constant Discharge Test and Recovery Test and while this data can be analysed to estimate sustainable yields, additional drilling in the area may result in long term cumulative impacts. Optimisation of the resource is also likely through making small changes to the abstraction rate, should the dynamic water level's drawdown be less or more than expected as per **[Table 7](#page-16-2)**. Both of these points are best managed through long term monitoring data.

*Table 7: Borehole Abstraction Recommendations*

<span id="page-16-2"></span>

<b>Borehole Details</b>							
<b>Borehole</b>	Latitude Longitude		<b>Borehole Depth</b>	<b>Inner Diameter</b>			
Name	(DD)	(DD)	(m)	(mm)			
AB BH1	$-33.95713^{\circ}$	18.67164°	84	135			



\* Typical water level expected during long-term production

For borehole AB\_BH1 it is recommended that abstraction can occur at a rate of up to 2.9 L/s for 12 hours per day. A pump suitable to deliver the recommended rate should be installed at a depth of 52 mbgl. It is anticipated that abstraction at the recommended rate will cause the water level to drop to a depth of approximately 30 mbgl – this is referred to as the dynamic water level. During abstraction, a maximum level cut off switch should be installed to 50 mbgl to ensure the groundwater level does not drop to the pump inlet.

From the laboratory results, groundwater from AB\_BH1 is of poor quality for potable supply. The primary cause of the poor groundwater quality is the elevated turbidity (22.5 NTU). According to the SANS 241-1:2015 standards the elevated turbidity will have aesthetic effects on the water such as poor colour. Similarly, the iron (1.935 mg/L), manganese (0.114 mg/L) and chloride (328.15 mg/L) will have aesthetic effects on the water such as poor taste and colour. Due to the elevated iron concentration, iron biofouling is likely to occur in the borehole if the borehole is not managed optimally. This will result in the clogging of the borehole as well as abstraction infrastructure. The groundwater from AB\_BH1 is currently not suitable for human consumption without treatment. Should the water be used for irrigation, crop selection should take into account the elevated chloride concentration.

To address the potential for iron to clog the borehole and abstraction infrastructure, it is recommended to maintain a constant and continuous pumping schedule as much as possible. Thus, should a daily volume of less than 250 560 L/d be required, it is recommended to decrease the pumping rate and not the pumping duration. By pumping continuously instead of on a stop-start schedule, iron oxidation in the borehole is minimized, decreasing the amount of iron precipitation inside the boreholes and pumps.

Through long term water level monitoring data, the abstraction volumes can be optimised by adjusting the abstraction rate if required. It is recommended that the borehole is equipped with a variable frequency drive. This enables adjustments to the flow rate to be made if required, as determined by the hydrogeological analysis of water level and flow rate monitoring data.

As of January 2018 the Department of Water and Sanitation released a Government Gazette stating that: "All water use sector groups and individuals taking water from any water resource (surface or groundwater) regardless of the authorization type, in the Berg, Olifants and Breede Gouritz Water

Management Area, shall install electronic water recording, monitoring or measuring devices to enable monitoring of abstractions, storage and use of water by existing lawful users and establish links with any monitoring or management system as well as keep records of the water used."

Therefore, to facilitate monitoring and informed management of the borehole, it is highly recommended that the borehole be equipped with the following monitoring infrastructure and equipment (diagram included in **Appendix D**):

- Installation of a 32 mm (inner diameter, class 10) observation pipe from the pump depth to the surface, closed at the bottom and slotted for the bottom  $5 - 10$  m. This was done during the testing activities in November 2023.
- Installation of an electronic water level logger (for automated water level monitoring).
- Installation of a sampling tap (to monitor water quality).
- Installation of a flow volume meter (to monitor abstraction rates and volumes).

This monitoring data should be analysed by a qualified Hydrogeologist to ensure long-term sustainable use from the borehole. The legal compliance with regard to the use of the groundwater also needs to be addressed with the Department of Water and Sanitation.

### <span id="page-18-0"></span>**5. REFERENCES**

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- SANS (241-1:2015). Drinking water Part 1: Microbiological, physical, aesthetic and chemical determinants.

# <span id="page-19-0"></span>**6. APPENDIX A: BOREHOLE LOG**

# **Log of Borehole No.:** AB\_BH1

**Location:** Blackheath **Date:** 20-Nov-23 **Client:** kls Consulting **Latitude: Longitude: Ground Elevation:** -33.95713 18.67164 46 mamsl



# <span id="page-21-0"></span>**7. APPENDIX B: YIELD TEST DATA**



Unit 12, Technostell 9 Quantum Street, Technopark, Stellenbosch, 7600

> PO Box 12412, Die Boord, 7613, South Africa

Tel: +27 (0)21 880 1079 Fax: +27 (0) 86 605 1121 www.geoss.co.za



# **Borehole Yield Test Results**







# <span id="page-26-0"></span>**8. APPENDIX C: WATER QUALITY**



**TEST REPORT** 

**Distillery Road** Stellenboach Tel 021-8828866/7 info@vinlab.com www.vinlab.com 2023-11-14

Water

#### Geoss South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Attn: Alison McDuling

P.O.Box 12412 Die Boord, Stellenbosch<br>7613 +27218801079







Please click here for SANS241-1:2015 drinking water limits

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\* - Conductivity <1000mS/m = z1mS/m <sub>+</sub> ×1000mS/m = z9mS/m<br>\*\* - COO, LR = z16mg/L, MR = z48mg/L, HR = z477mg/L<br>\*\*\* - pH z 0.1



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**Distillery Road** Stellenboach Tel 021-8828866/7 info@vinlab.com www.vinlab.com 2023-11-14

#### **TEST REPORT**

Water

#### **Geoss South Africa (Pty) Ltd**

Attn: Alison McDuling

P.O.Box 12412 Die Boord, Stellenbosch 7613 +27218801079





Comments

W44210 Ion balance =  $1.5\%$ 

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\* - Conductivity <1000mS/m = ±1mS/m , >1000mS/m = ±9mS/m<br>\*\* - COO, LR = ±16mgL, MR = ±48mgL, HR = ±477mgL<br>\*\*\* - pH ± 0.1



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#### **TEST REPORT**

Water

**Geoss South Africa (Pty) Ltd** 

Attn: Alison McDuling

P.O.Box 12412 Die Boord, Stellenbosch 7613 +27218801079

Wartner

Caitlyn McCartney Laboratory Manager - RP UBHOSH (USING THE HOSPITAL COMPANY)<br>
MELON MARIJARA (MELON MARIJARA)<br>
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\* - Conductivity <1000mS/m = ±1mS/m <sub>+</sub> ×1000mS/m = ±9mS/m<br>\*\* - COO, LR = ±16mg/L, MR = ±46mg/L, MR = ±477mg/L<br>\*\*\* - pH ± 0.1

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# <span id="page-30-0"></span>**9. APPENDIX D: MONITORING INFRASTRUCTURE DIAGRAM**





# <span id="page-33-0"></span>**10. APPENDIX E: YIELD TEST DATA ANALYSIS**



(LAST PAGE)