

## Wylie, Allan

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**From:** bcontor.rm@gmail.com on behalf of Bryce Contor  
[bcontor@rockymountainenvironmental.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2010 9:22 PM  
**To:** Wylie, Allan  
**Subject:** Re: Rexburg Bench

Yes, I agree 100%. And I'll try to see if we can get some good and sound information.

In the absence of water level data (can't find wells, can't get transducers, etc, etc) the good and sound information would be that the faults exist. So one would in theory either not permit PEST to remove them, or penalize it if it tried. Maybe something as stupid, easy, and conceptually sound as requiring T in the faults to always be a couple of orders of magnitude smaller than adjoining cells.

On Mon, Oct 11, 2010 at 2:46 PM, Wylie, Allan <[Allan.Wylie@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:Allan.Wylie@idwr.idaho.gov)> wrote:

Re 1) As I am presenting this, PEST would be told to only remove the "faults" if it improved the fit between observed field data and model output.

I am suggesting that it might be prudent to make SURE that PEST is exposed to good and sound information.

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----- Reply message -----

**From:** "Bryce Contor" <[bcontor@rockymountainenvironmental.com](mailto:bcontor@rockymountainenvironmental.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, Oct 11, 2010 11:35 am  
**Subject:** Rexburg Bench  
**To:** "Wylie, Allan" <[Allan.Wylie@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:Allan.Wylie@idwr.idaho.gov)>  
**Cc:** "[rick.raymondi@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:rick.raymondi@idwr.idaho.gov)" <[rick.raymondi@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:rick.raymondi@idwr.idaho.gov)>

1) It would be irresponsible to allow PEST to remove them, without a good reason to think they ought to be removed. The defensible position always ought to be to honor the best information we have.

2) If IDWR is offering to maintain the sites, etc., that certainly is a more generous offer than I thought we received before.

3) Again, I'll try to pursue this.

B

On Mon, Oct 11, 2010 at 10:54 AM, Wylie, Allan <[Allan.Wylie@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:Allan.Wylie@idwr.idaho.gov)> wrote:

Bryce

I am happy to include the faults as a starting position and tell PEST to only adjust them if it sees fit. I suspect PEST will remove them, unless it has information saying that it needs a low conductivity zone there. We know PEST can put a low conductivity zone in if it has adequate information (Great Rift and Mud Lake).

Regarding the unused wells, I don't understand why you don't just find the wells for us, and let us 'inspect and measure candidates, get the transducer, and install, and return periodically for verification measurements and downloading' like everyone else does?

Allan

From: [bcontor.rm@gmail.com](mailto:bcontor.rm@gmail.com) [mailto:[bcontor.rm@gmail.com](mailto:bcontor.rm@gmail.com)] On Behalf Of Bryce Contor  
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 9:45 AM  
To: Wylie, Allan  
Subject: Re: Rexburg Bench

Allan -

Thanks. This is what I've thought you were talking about all along. I agree it is a great idea and I will try to get funding to pursue it. We are probably talking under a few thousand dollars by the time we burn hours talking to people, go inspect and measure candidates, report to IDWR, get the transducers, return and install, then return periodically for verification measurements and downloading.

In the meantime, or whether or not I'm successful in finding a sugar daddy to pay for all this, the model could be greatly improved by even crude representation of the geologic information contained in the report.

I think the technical component of the discussion is that while both "A" and "B" would be desirable, "B" alone is an improvement. The policy content is that the Dept. may be walking on thin ice to require "A" before it will consider "B."

B

On Mon, Oct 11, 2010 at 9:27 AM, Wylie, Allan <[Allan.Wylie@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:Allan.Wylie@idwr.idaho.gov)> wrote:

Perhaps I am missing some key element in the discussion. I was hoping that through word of mouth you could locate unused wells, ie very little field work. The Department would provide the transducers, download

them, and manage the data. Just like we do almost everywhere else. You see we have trouble locating unused wells, I presume because we are supposed to have the owners plug them.

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----- Reply message -----

From: "Bryce Contor" <[bcontor@rockymountainenvironmental.com](mailto:bcontor@rockymountainenvironmental.com)>  
Date: Mon, Oct 11, 2010 8:46 am  
Subject: Rexburg Bench  
To: "Wylie, Allan" <[Allan.Wylie@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:Allan.Wylie@idwr.idaho.gov)>, "[rick.raymondi@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:rick.raymondi@idwr.idaho.gov)" <[rick.raymondi@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:rick.raymondi@idwr.idaho.gov)>

Allan -

I'm not so sure they are asking for the bench to be out of the model, but to be represented as correctly as possible, within constraints of budgets.

While it is a generous offer to provide transducers, someone still has to pay for the field work. I think there is some push back against the idea that to have Eastern Idaho concerns represented in the model, Eastern Idaho has to start spending money like Idaho Power.

I agree 100% that current water levels would be a grand supplement to the historical water levels in the report, and could be used to constrain calibration. And I'll push in that direction. However I also strongly assert that with or without additional data gathering, incorporating the geologic knowledge in the report would still be an improvement to the model, and would go a long ways towards satisfying the Department's obligation to serve all the stakeholders.

B

On Fri, Oct 8, 2010 at 3:43 PM, Wylie, Allan <[Allan.Wylie@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:Allan.Wylie@idwr.idaho.gov)> wrote:

Bryce

If I recall correctly, I read this and another paper by a U of I grad student that made a ground water model of the Bench for a thesis (or part of the Bench, or an area near the Bench or something) and then went and talked with Glen Embry and Mark Lovell. As I recall, I pointedly asked them to tell me to keep the bench out of the model, because once included, it would be hard to come back later and take it out. They wouldn't and now it is in.

I believe I can convince Rick to come up with some transducers. Coincidentally we were just this week talking about where to place transducers. I think few inside and a few outside should tell a compelling tale, one way or another. All we need are some unused wells.

Allan

From: [bcontor.rm@gmail.com](mailto:bcontor.rm@gmail.com) [mailto:[bcontor.rm@gmail.com](mailto:bcontor.rm@gmail.com)] On Behalf Of Bryce Contor  
Sent: Friday, October 08, 2010 10:51 AM  
To: Wylie, Allan; Raymondi, Rick  
Subject: Rexburg Bench

Allan and Rick -

Today I'm wearing my Rocky Mountian Environmental hat.

In the past Roger's clients have requested more careful representation of the Rexburg Bench. Allan's response has been to require field work, which may be currently beyond financial reach. However in working on something else I came across this study which provides geological information. These data ought to at least be given equal consideration to the input of consultants whose clients have larger budgets.

While it is true that geology unconstrained by detailed GW hydrographs is not as good as if we had long time series of water level data on multiple wells, even a crude representation of known geology would be superior to the current assumption of uniform porous media.

Bryce

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