
SEISMOGRAPH SHOOTING AND WATER WELLS¹

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Occasional reports indicate that seismograph shooting by oil company survey parties affects adversely some water wells. Usually, it is reported that the yield of the water well is reduced, although in one instance the water was said to have become muddy. Most reports of well failure as a result of seismograph shooting cannot be confirmed because little information is available on the relation of water well to shot hole, but a preliminary analysis suggests that failure is not likely to occur where there is a substantial distance between the shot hole and water well. Where it does occur, it is likely to be in wells tapping water in the finer-grained rocks, or in wells fed through open cracks or joints that may be closed as a result of the shooting. As some water wells are "shot" to improve the yield, some wells may be improved, rather than harmed, by seismograph shooting.
