Significant Sand and Gravel Aquifers

**WHAT IS AN AQUIFER?**

A ground water system is a network of interconnected aquifers that store and transmit liquid and gas. Ground water supplies drinking water and is used for irrigation and industrial purposes. Ground water is the primary source of water for many communities and industries. Ground water is also an important resource for agriculture, recreation, and industry. Ground water is a valuable resource that can be replenished by naturally occurring processes, such as rain and snowmelt.

**HOW DO WE KNOW WHERE AQUIFERS ARE SITTING?**

Geologists use a variety of techniques to identify and map aquifers. These techniques include drilling, geophysical surveys, and hydrologic studies. Drilling is the most common method for identifying aquifers. Geophysical surveys use electromagnetic, seismic, and other techniques to detect subsurface features. Hydrologic studies involve measuring the flow of water through the ground and the properties of the ground water.

**GROUND-WATER FLOW AND CONTAMINATION**

Ground water flows through the ground and is replenished by rain and snowmelt. When a pollutant is introduced into the ground water, it can travel for long distances before it is removed or diluted. The potential for contamination is high, especially when the ground water is shallow or the aquifer is thick.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**