

Groundwater Management Policies Based on the Groundwater Act in Republic of Korea

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ABSTRACT

Water use in Republic of Korea has been increased continuously due to rapid growing of national economy, higher industrial development, improvement living standards of the people, and etc since 1960s. Groundwater development and use of our country was propelled by the private sector rather than public under the out of government control during last 40 years. Owing to the indisceet groundwater development and use by private sector, excessive decline of groundwater level, groundwater mining, and groundwater pollution are widely occurred specially in densely populated and industrial areas

Finally central government has realized that the groundwater is an important water resources and shall be managed by the best management practice under government controls, and that wise use and development of groundwater is one of the most practical solution to ensure the consistence water supply to meet increasing water demands is

Coping with increasing demands for wise use and preservation of the groundwater, central government has made the Groundwater Act in 1993 to establish the master plan of groundwater resources and implement national groundwater management. It was revised 4 times since its promulgation based on operational results.

The basic principle of groundwater management strategy is the groundwater preservation and protection from potential contaminant sources, and systematic and sustainable exploitation under the consideration of local hydrogeologic characteristics and optimal yield. This manuscript is a summarized outlines of the Groundwater Act.

Key words : facilities causing groundwater pollution, remedial plans, groundwater quality standards, groundwater preservation area, clean-up criteria