Hydrogeological Processes In Karst Terranes

IMPACT OF QUARRIES ON KARST GROUNDWATER SYSTEMS

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Quarrying of carbonate rocks for various purposes dates back to early times. The impact of quarries on the environment and particularly on the groundwater system in terms of quality and quantity has often been ignored until the last few decades. Regardless of the removing the protective cover of an aquifer may cause severe pollution of the groundwater. Another impact is that groundwater flow patterns may change due to mammade effects, such as blasting. Sites of quarries, therefore, should be selected by considering the hydrogeological, environmental and economic factors.

Quarries provide blocks and limestone chippings for the cement industry and construction industry. About 30% of Turkey is underlain by carbonate rocks that lithologically suitable for such purposes. The site of for a quarry should be studie detail for hydrogeological, economic, geological, and technological aspects, which, the last decade, have often been ignored.

Carbonate rocks cover productive aquifers in many places particularly who karstification is well developed. Removal of this cover through quarrying may result dramatic changes not only in the groundwater regime but also in the quality of the ka water. This problem directly affects human health. Quarried landscapes should restored for aesthetic reasons.

PARAMETERS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE SELECTION OF SITES FOR OUARRIES

Quarrying is one of the oldest methods for utilization of limestone. Until recent times, the operational economy was the most important factor in the selection of quarry sites. Generally sites with smooth relief and easy accessability are preferred. Therefore, sites carbonate rocks that are lithologically suitable for use in the cement industry can be found over a vast area. Since remote areas generally have a steep and rugged topography, these are not suitable. Instead, sites are selected in areas with smooth topography, a parameter which also affects the selection of sites for the settlement of man.

Some landforms including hills, valleys, caves and closed depressions which are of arc importance in a karst groundwater system are often destroyed by quarries. Geologic factors such as structural elements, the strike and dip of the strata, the underlying at overlying lithology, and landslide problems are generally less important in the selection quarry sites.

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karst with hydrogeology usually attracts the attention of engi- age of karst processes for environmental engineering is still . in: The engineering geology and hydrogeology of karst terranes,. Proc.Keywords: karst, groundwater flow, contaminant transport modeling, Puerto Rico (USA) Hydrogeological Processes in Karst Terranes.

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