

**Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission**

**Monitor Wells Summary Report  
January 2009**

**3M Project Monitoring Program  
La Plata County, Colorado**

Prepared By  
Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission  
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January 8, 2009

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The 3M Project Monitoring Program in La Plata County, Colorado was initiated by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) in January 2001. This report describes the results of wellhead and bottomhole pressure monitoring at four monitoring well sites through December 10, 2008. The monitoring work was carried out by staff of the COGCC and Norwest Applied Hydrology (Norwest) on behalf of the COGCC. Figure 1 shows the location of the four monitoring well sites. Table 1 identifies the monitoring wells, locations, and the depths of completion at the four monitoring well sites. Table 2 lists the depth and type of pressures transducers used in each monitoring well. Table 3 provides a chronology of monitoring well installation, operation and maintenance activities from January 2001 through December 10, 2008.

## **2.0 MONITORING ACTIVITIES AND DATA SUMMARY**

### **2.1 MONITORING ACTIVITIES – FOURTH QUARTER 2008**

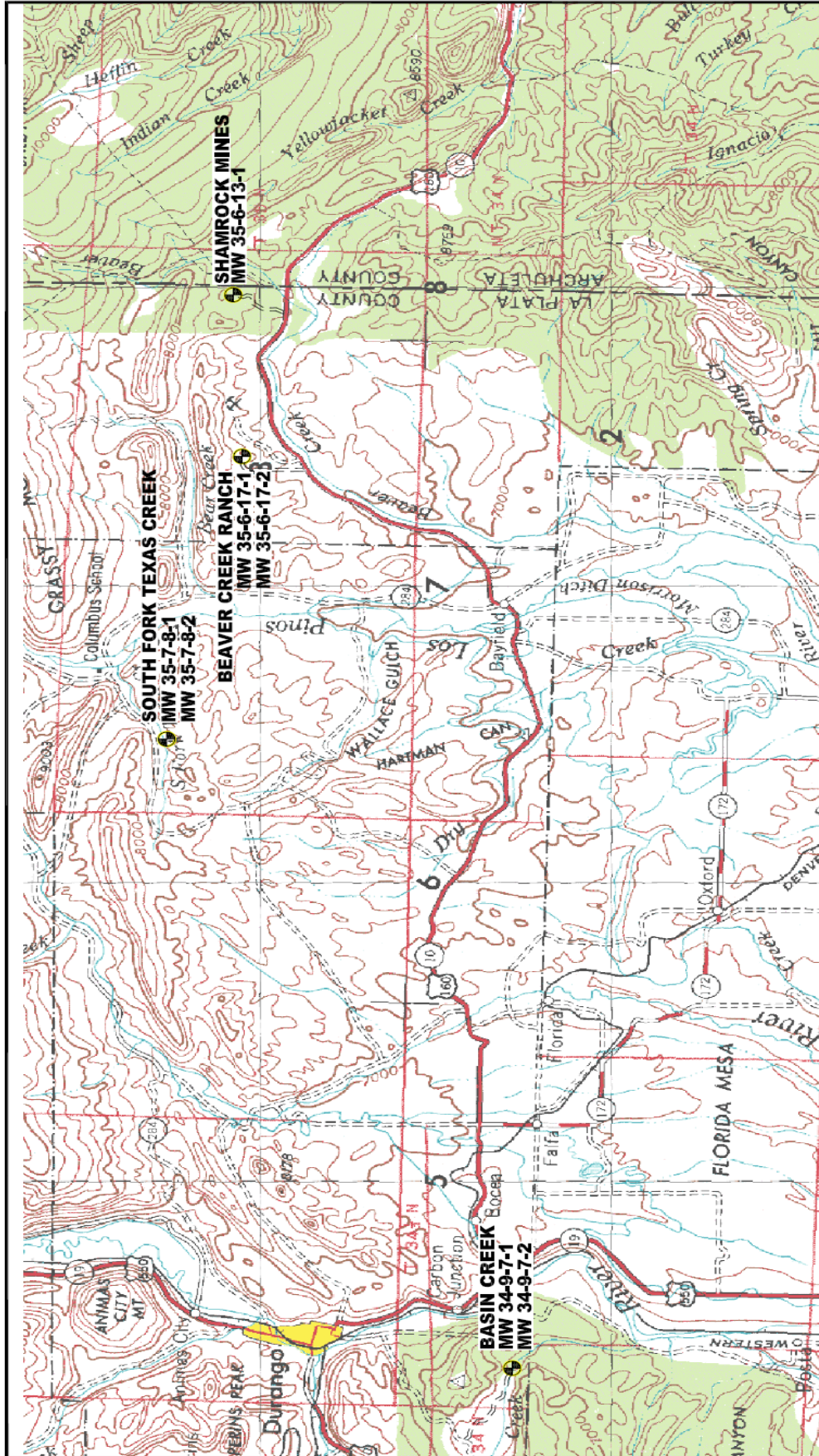
Monitoring site activities performed during this reporting period included continuation of automated well pressure data collection program, and inspection of each monitor well site and extraction of recorded logger data on December 10, 2008.

### **2.2 MONITOR WELL PRESSURE DATA SUMMARY**

Well pressure continues to be measured and recorded twice daily (12-hour interval) by Hermit 3000 Data Loggers. There were no data records missed or lost at any of the sites during this reporting period.

Applicable well pressure and calculated water level data for the entire period of record for each monitoring well are plotted in annotated charts. The water level in a well is calculated using the depth of the lower transducer and the difference in pressure between upper and lower transducers. This calculation is applicable at sites where the water level in a well is above the lower pressure transducer and below the upper pressure transducer.

Well pressure data analysis and interpretation by site and monitor well for the entire period of record are summarized below. Well pressure measurements recorded by the data logger at each monitor well site are available upon request to all interested parties.



**MONITORING WELL SITE AND DESIGNATION**

**Figure 1**  
3M Site Map  
Well Locations

3M Project  
La Plata County, CO

DATE: 6/12/08  
DRAWN BY: JLS  
CHECKED BY: JLS  
APPROVED BY: Sen Juan Durango

0 10,000 20,000  
FEET  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 FEET

**NORWEST**  
Engineering & Technology

**SOURCE**  
USGS T-X-2 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NJ 13-7  
DURANGO, COLORADO

ANIMAS CITY MT  
DURANGO  
FLORIDA MESA  
BASIN CREEK  
SOUTH FORK TEXAS CREEK  
BEAVER CREEK RANCH  
SHAMROCK MINES

MW 34-9-7-1  
MW 34-9-7-2  
MW 35-7-8-1  
MW 35-7-8-2  
MW 35-6-17-1  
MW 35-6-17-2  
MW 35-6-13-1

LA PLATA COUNTY  
ARCHULETA COUNTY

Animas River  
Columbus Spout  
Hartman  
Walter Gulch  
Bayfield  
Morrison Ditch  
Florida River  
Carbon Junction  
Durango  
Florida Mesa  
Basin Creek  
South Fork Texas Creek  
Beaver Creek  
Shamrock Mines

Animas City Mt  
Durango  
Florida Mesa  
Basin Creek  
South Fork Texas Creek  
Beaver Creek  
Shamrock Mines

**Table 1  
3M Project Monitor Well Completion Summary**

Location	Well ID	Construction Completion Date	Drilled Depth (fbgs)	Cored Intervals (fbgs)	Casing Depth (fbgs)	Casing Stickup (fbgs)	Well Casing Material	Perforated Interval in Coal seam(s) (fbgs)	Log Type	Logged Depth (fbgs)	Log Date
Basin Creek	MW 34-9-7-1	01/28/01	820		802	1	2" Schedule 40 galvanized steel pipe	578 - 609	gamma ray, bulk density, caliper, resistance	819	01/27/01
	MW 34-9-7-2	04/25/02	570	359 - 374 * 498 - 513 578 - 593	561	1.5	2.875" & 2.375" Oilfield steel tubing	496 - 526	64" normal resistivity, 16" normal resistivity, sp temperature, differential temperature gamma ray, casing collar locator	822 822 763	01/27/01 01/27/01 09/27/01
South Fork Texas Creek	MW 35-7-8-1	09/20/01	486		463	1.6	2" Schedule 40 galvanized steel pipe	403 - 416	gamma ray, bulk density, caliper, resistance	485	09/19/01
	MW 35-7-8-2	09/21/01	420	410 - 425	425	1.6	2" Schedule 40 galvanized steel pipe	235 - 241 254 - 258 264 - 274	64" normal resistivity, 16" normal resistivity, sp temperature, differential temperature gamma ray, casing collar locator	485 485 462	09/19/01 09/19/01 09/27/01
	MW 35-6-17-1	04/04/02	1,645	1,457 - 1,467 1,564 - 1,572	1,631	1.5	2.875" Oilfield steel tubing	1,572 - 1,576 1,582 - 1,584	64" normal resistivity, 16" normal resistivity, sp temperature, differential temperature gamma ray, bulk density, caliper, resistance gamma ray, casing collar locator	1,645 1,640 1,643 1,618	04/03/02 04/03/02 04/03/02 05/02/02
Beaver Creek Ranch	MW 35-6-17-2	10/04/01	1,550		1,500	2	2" Schedule 40 galvanized steel pipe	1,437 - 1,449 1,458 - 1,472	gamma ray, neutron temperature, 4PI density signal amplitude, travel time \ D T, VDL gamma ray, casing collar locator	1,499 1,493 1,484 1,483	10/10/01 11/14/01 11/14/01 11/27/01
	MW 35-6-13-1	05/07/02	627		606	1.5	2.375" Oilfield steel tubing	507 - 511 517 - 533 539 - 562	gamma ray, bulk density, caliper, resistance 64" normal resistivity, 16" normal resistivity, sp gamma ray, casing collar locator	626 626 626	05/06/02 05/06/02 05/10/02

\* Cored interval from initial well drilled, plugged and abandoned in February 2001.

**Table 2**  
**3M Project Monitor Well Pressure Transducers**

Location	Well ID	Upper Transducer		Lower Transducer	
		Depth (fbgs)	Type and Rating	Depth (fbgs)	Type and Rating
Basin Creek	MW 34-9-7-1	0.5	PXD-261-30 psig	570	PXD-461-500 psia
	MW 34-9-7-2	4.6 <sup>1</sup>	PXD-461-500 psia	485	PXD-461-500 psia
South Fork Texas Creek	MW 35-7-8-1	5	PXD-261-30 psig	390	PXD-461-500 psia
	MW 35-7-8-2	4	PXD-461-500 psia	225	PXD-461-500 psia
Beaver Creek Ranch	MW 35-6-17-1	5	PXD-461-500 psia	1,565	PXD-461-1,000 psia
	MW 35-6-17-2	2.5 ftags <sup>2</sup>	PXD-461-1,000 psia	None <sup>3</sup>	PXD-461-1,000 psia
Shamrock Mines	MW 35-6-13-1	5	PXD-461-500 psia	500	PXD-461-1,000 psia

1 MW34-9-7-2 upper transducer raised from 4.6 fbgs to ground surface April 23, 2004 and to 1.65 ftags August 25, 2004;  
upper transducer lowered from 1.65 ftags to 4.6 fbgs June 14, 2005

2 MW 35-6-17-2 lower transducer raised from 1420 fbgs to 1415 fbgs August 22, 2003

3 MW 35-6-17-2 lower transducer removed and upper transducer raised to 2.5 ftags April 22, 2004

**Table 3  
3M Project Monitor Well Chronology**

Location	Well	2001				2002								2003					
		Jan	Sept	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Oct - Nov	December	Jan	Feb - Apr	May - Jun	Aug	Oct - Dec
Basin Creek	MW 34-9-7-1	Jan. 24-28: Drill & install well	Sept. 27: Perforate well	Nov. 28: Set up telemetry unit; replace bad xds cables	Survey	Jan. 18: Tighten wellhead fittings; rewire telemetry sys	Replace telemetry 12v battery sys, In-Situ assist							Lost telemetry communication with data logger	Jan 20: New well 34-9-7-1 upper xd (30 psig, sn 7201); rewire pwr regultr;	Telemetry system malfunction	May 20: Replace modem and cell phone;	Aug 21: Vent both wells and tighten wellhead xd	Oct 8: Conduct rapid blowdown & shutin test
	MW 34-9-7-2								April 24-25: Drill & install well	May 5: Perforate well May 9: Fish out cable May 22:	Survey				replace logger bkup lith. batt; re-flash modem memory; enable modem auto pwr-up;		Aug 21: Vent both wells and tighten wellhead xd cable strain relief fittings	Oct 8: Conduct rapid blowdown & shut-in test	
South Fork Texas Creek	MW 35-7-8-1		Sept. 17-20: Drill/install well; Sept. 27: Perforate well	Nov. 29: Set up telemetry unit; replace bad xd cables	Survey	Jan. 18: Tighten wellhead fittings; rewire telemetry sys	Replace telemetry 12v battery sys, In-Situ assist			May 21: Ck for leaks				Dec. 4: Data lost through end of year due to Hermit internal battery failure; lost telemetry communication with data logger	Jan 20: rewire pwr regultr; replace logger bkup lith. batt; re-flash modem memory; enable modem auto pwr-up;	Telemetry system malfunction;	June 16: lower xd failed	Oct 8: Well pressure buildup test	
	MW 35-7-8-2		Sept. 20-21: Drill/install well Sept. 27: Perforate well	Nov. 29: Set up telemetry unit; replace bad xd cables	Survey	Jan. 18: Tighten wellhead fittings				May 21: Ck for leaks			Oct 25: Vent well; replaced strain relief fittings; shut in well	Dec 7: Tightened wellhead fittings		May 20: Replace modem and cell phone;		Oct 8: Well pressure buildup test	
Beaver Creek Ranch	MW 35-6-17-1						Replace telemetry 12v battery sys, In-Situ assist	Mar. 5- Apr 4: Drill & install well		May 2: Perforate well; May 20-21: Install xds	Survey	July 10: Replace lower xd cable with unvented cable		Dec 13: Insp by Raymond Const.- no wellhead gas leak; ; logger batt @ 0% capacity; modem problem	Jan 7 & Jan 21: No wellhead gas leak @ MW35-6-17-2; Jan 21: rewire pwr regultr;	Telemetry system malfunction	May 20: Replace modem and cell phone;	Oct 7 & 21: Well pressure buildup test	
	MW 35-6-17-2		Sept. 22-Oct. 4: Drill/install well	Nov. 26: Perforate well Nov. 27: Set up telemetry unit	Survey	Jan. 17 - Install new xd cables with SwageLok fittings; rewire telemetry unit			Apr 8: Pull lower xd cable; no data Apr 8 to May 20	May 21: Install unvented, heavy duty xd cable; shut in well		Gas leak @ top bushing; July 10: Vent well & ck bushing galls; July 11: shut in well	Nov. 14: Vent well; replaced valve and reseal all connections	Dec. 19: Data lost through end of year due to bad data logger bkup battery	replace logger bkup lith. batt; re-flash modem memory; enable modem auto pwr-up;	Wellhead bushing leak	May 20: Wellhead bushing leak; wellhead assembly to be redesigned	Aug 20: New flanged wellhead assembly; xd cable leak at swagelok fitting	Oct 8 & 21: Well pressure buildup test; wellhead leaks @ pressure >570 psia;
Shamrock Mines	MW 35-6-13-1									May 3-7: Drill/install well; May 10: Perforate well; May 20, 21: Install pad, telemetry & data logger systems, & xds	Survey			Lost telmetry communication with data logger	Jan 21: rewire pwr regultr; replace logger bkup lith. batt; re-flash modem memory; enable modem auto pwr-up;	Telemetry system malfunction	May 20: Replace modem and cell phone;	Aug 20: Modem pwr down; replaced 12v battery	Oct 7: Replaced 12v battery pack; Oct 8: well pressure buildup tests; Oct 21: Replaced solar panel

**Table 3, Continued  
3M Project Monitor Well Chronology**

Location	Well	2004			2005			2006			2007			2008		
		Jan - Mar	April	August	March	June	Oct - Dec	January	June -Nov	December	June	August	Nov - Dec	May	September	December
Basin Creek	MW 34-9-7-1			Aug 25: New data logger battery pack; vent well; gas sample		June 14: Inspection			June 21: Inspection		June 20: Inspection; replace logger battery; start new test	Analog modem telemetry sys. off line; local telecom. service changed to digital by provider; Hermit logger data must be extracted to a PC on site.	Nov 12 & Dec 12: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction	May 6: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction	Sept 3: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction	Dec 10: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction
	MW 34-9-7-2		Apr 23: vent well & raise upper xd from 5 fbgs to ground surface	Aug 25: vent well; raise upper xd to 1.65 ft above ground; gas sample		June 14: Inspection; pressure gauge leaking; vented well (artesian flow < 0.5 gpm); lowered upper xd to 4.6 fbgs (under water); replaced gauge with plug			June 21: Inspection							
South Fork Texas Creek	MW 35-7-8-1	No data reported for 6/16/03 to 4/22/04 -lower xd failed	Apr 22: vent well; temporarily replaced lower xd with 1000 psia xd	Aug 25: New data logger battery pack; vent well; tighten xd		June 13: Inspection; new data logger test started			June 21: Inspection		June 20: Inspection; replace logger battery; start	See above	Nov 12 & Dec 12: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction	May 6: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction	Sept 3: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction	Dec 10: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction
	MW 35-7-8-2	Well pressure data suggest that wellhead xd cable strain relief fittings leak intermittently in winter	Apr 22: vent well; replaced strain relief fittings	Aug 25: vent well; tighten xd fittings replace lwr 1000 psia xd with new 500 psia xd; gas sample	Mar: Well pressure deviation from previous norm; possible wellhead leak or xd failure or decline in well gas pressure	June 13: Wellhead fitting leaks detected; June 14: Vented well and replaced both 500 psia xds; new data logger test started	Oct 25: Vent well; replaced strain relief fittings Dec 7: Tightened wellhead fittings	Jan 3: Tightened wellhead fittings	June 21: Tightened wellhead fittings October 31: Replaced all well head fittings November 10: Developed well and water sample collected	Dec 11 & 13: Tightened wellhead strain relief fittings	June 20: Wellhead fittings leak; vent well; replaced xd cables with rugged polyethylene cables;		Dec 12: Wellhead strain relief cable fitting leak; vent well; installed Swagelok tube fitting on upper xd cable at wellhead	May 6: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction; Slight leak at lower xd cable wellhead strain relief fitting	Sept 3: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction; Very slight leak at lower xd cable wellhead strain relief fitting	Dec 10: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction; Slight leak at lower xd cable wellhead strain relief fitting
Beaver Creek Ranch	MW 35-6-17-1			Aug 24: New data logger battery pack; vent well; Aug 25: gas sample		June 13: Inspection			June 21: Inspection		June 20: Inspection; replace logger battery; start new test	See above	Nov 12 & Dec 12: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction	May 6: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction	Sept 3: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction	Dec 10: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction
	MW 35-6-17-2	Wellhead leaks @ pressure >570 psia	Apr 22: vent well/removed lower xd; attached upper xd externally to wellhead; no leaks	Aug 24: vent well; Aug 25: gas sample		June 13: Inspection; slight leak detected from wellhead xd bushing			June 21: Inspection; slight leak detected from wellhead xd bushing October 31: Leaky wellhead xd bushing sealed							
Shamrock Mines	MW 35-6-13-1			Aug 24: New data logger battery pack; vent well, no gas to sample		June 13: Inspection			June 21: Inspection		June 20: Inspection; replace logger battery; start new test	See above	Nov 12 & Dec 12: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction	May 6: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction	Sept 3: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction	Dec 10: Inspection and Hermit logger data extraction



## 2.2.1 BASIN CREEK

Monitor well MW 34-9-7-1 has been monitored since November 29, 2001 and monitor well MW 34-9-7-2 has been monitored since May 24, 2002. Initial and ending monitoring well pressures and calculated water levels in the wells for each period of record are summarized in Table 4.

**Table 4**  
**Well Pressure Data Summary for Basin Creek Monitoring Wells**

Well ID and Transducers (XD)	Period of Record	Initial Well Pressure psia	Ending Well Pressure psia	Net Change in Well Pressure psi	Initial Water Level in Well fbgs	Ending Water Level in Well fbgs	Net Water Level Change in Well ft
MW 34-9-7-1 Upper XD	11/29/01 to 12/10/08	11.46	16.15	4.69	20.97	115.41	-94.44
Lower XD		249.34	213.11	-36.23			
MW 34-9-7-2 Upper XD <sup>1</sup>	5/24/02 to 12/10/08	33.26 <sup>1</sup>	20.30 <sup>1</sup>	-12.96 <sup>1</sup>	Well water level is above ground level; see discussion and Figure 3 for more details		
Lower XD		241.42	226.69	-14.73			

<sup>1</sup> MW 34-9-7-2 upper XD at 4.6 ft below ground level is under water; initial value corrected June 2008.

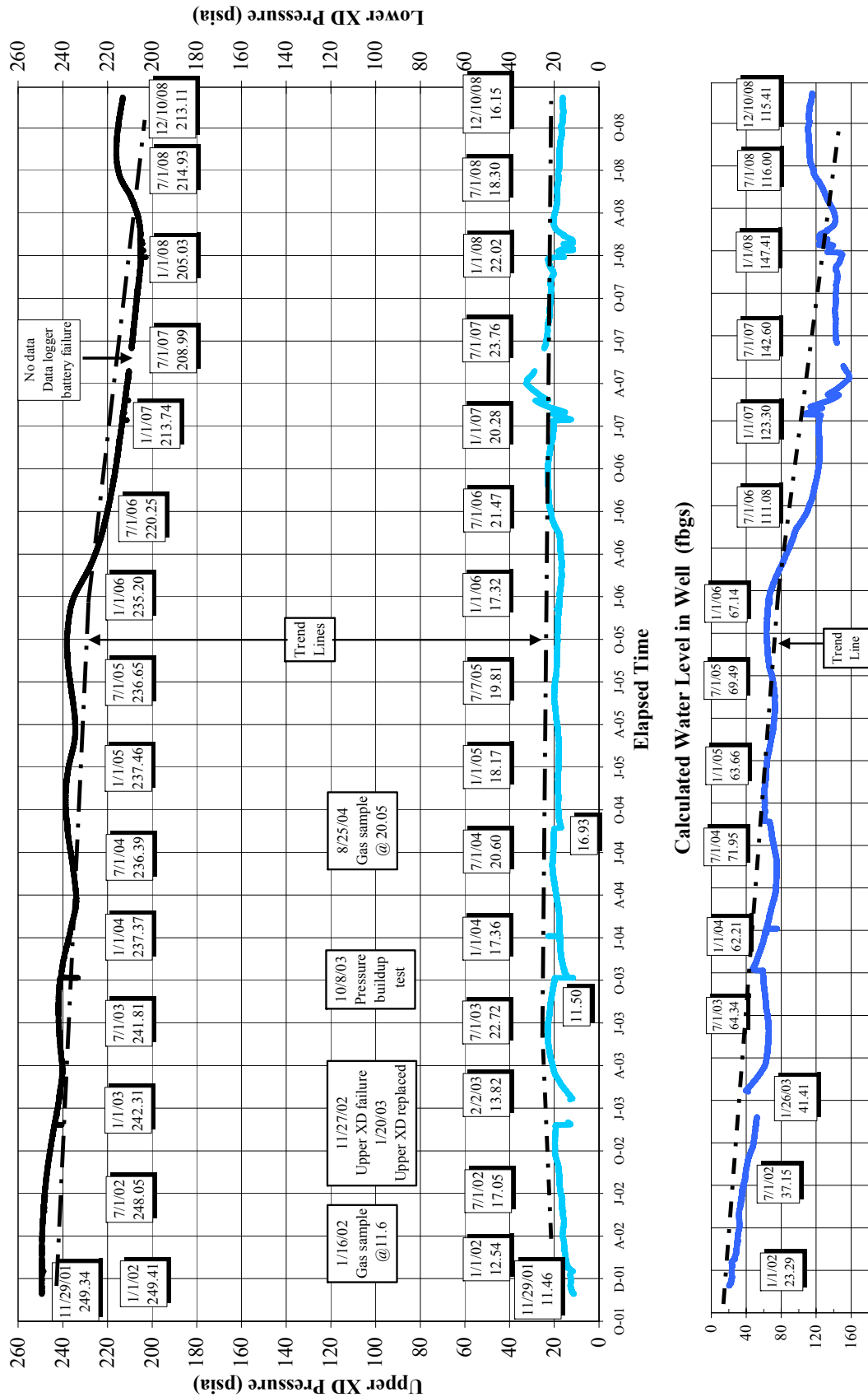
### MW 34-9-7-1

Figure 2 charts the upper and lower pressure transducer data and the calculated water level in the well. Table 2 and Figure 2 show an overall 4.69 psi net increase in wellhead pressure for the entire 7-year period of record from November 29, 2001 (11.46 psia) to December 10, 2008 (16.15 psia). Figure 2 shows a gradual buildup of about 8.3 psi in wellhead pressure, from 11.46 psia to 19.75 psia, during the first 11-month period following the initial well shut in on November 29, 2001. Since October 1, 2002, Figure 2 generally shows a pattern of minor seasonal fluctuations within an overall flat trend in wellhead pressure. Two spikes on the wellhead curve are due to a pressure buildup test (October 2003) and a gas sampling event (August 2004). The chart also shows two erratic fluctuations in the wellhead pressure and calculated well water level curves between January 15, 2007 and April 15, 2007 and between January 1, 2008 and March 15, 2008. The cause of these erratic fluctuations may be wellhead pressure transducer performance related rather than an erratic change in wellhead pressure since the bottomhole pressure curve does not exhibit the same erratic pattern for the same period of record.

In contrast to the wellhead pressure patterns, Table 2 and Figure 2 show a net decline of about 94.44 feet in the calculated well water level and a corresponding net decline in bottomhole pressure of about 36.23 psi for the period of record. Figure 2 also shows a pattern of slight seasonal fluctuations within the overall declining trend in the water level and corresponding bottomhole pressure for the period of record.

**Figure 2**

**Pressure Transducer Data  
Basin Creek Well MW-34-9-7-1**



**MW 34-9-7-2**

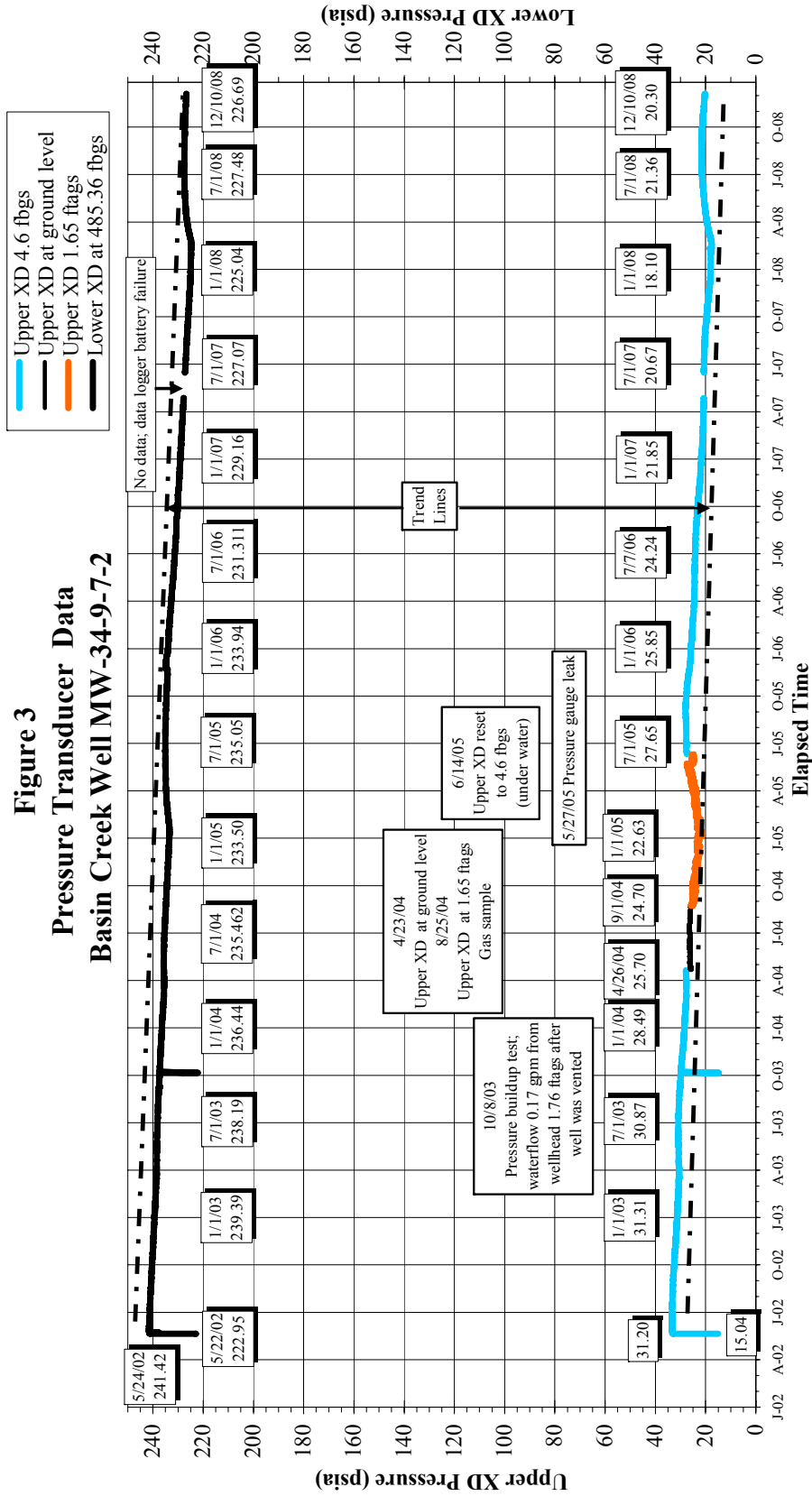
Recorded pressure data and calculated bottomhole and wellhead differential pressures for well MW-34-9-7-2 are charted on Figures 3. Initial and ending monitoring well pressures and apparent water level in the well are summarized in Table 4 for the period of record with the upper transducer set at 4.6 feet below ground surface (fbgs).

Figure 3 continues to show a trend of gradually declining well pressure and slight seasonal fluctuations in wellhead and bottomhole pressures within the overall declining trend for the period of record. A record low bottomhole pressure of 224.56 psia and record low wellhead pressure of 17.58 psia were recorded on February 18, 2008. Between February 18, 2008 and December 10, 2008, Figure 3 shows an apparent seasonal fluctuation within the overall declining trend. As indicated in Table 4, there has been a net decline in well pressure about of 12.96 psi (wellhead pressure) to 14.96 psi (bottomhole pressure) for the 6.5-year period of record.

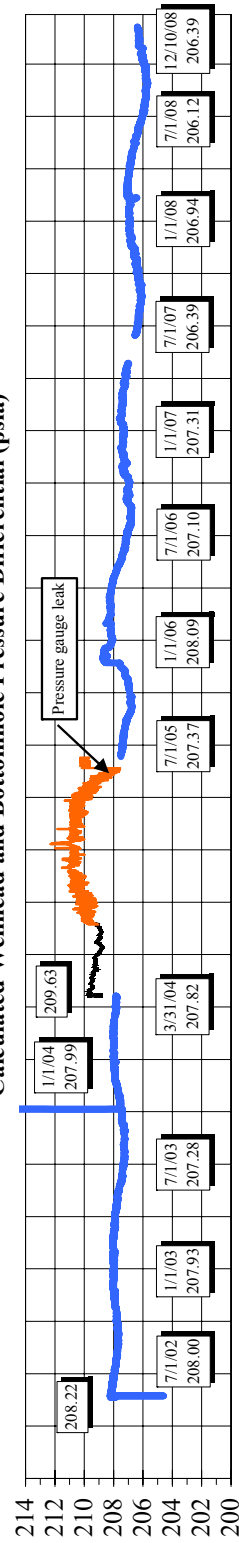
A wellhead differential pressure test was conducted on April 23, 2004 to verify whether or not the upper transducer is under water when set in the well at a depth of 4.6 feet below ground surface. Figure 3 shows a notable difference in wellhead pressure relative to the location of the upper transducer. On April 23, 2004, the wellhead shut-in pressure at 4.6 fbgs was 27.80 psia versus 26.00 psia at ground level, a difference of about 1.8 psia. On August 25, 2004, the wellhead pressure transducer was raised to 1.65 feet above ground surface (ftags). The shut-in pressure at ground level was 25.66 psia versus 25.08 psia at 1.65 ftags, a difference of about 0.5 psi. Since there was no corresponding measurable difference in the bottomhole pressure, the observed wellhead pressure differential between 4.6 fbgs and 1.65 ftags confirms the upper transducer is under water at 4.6 fbgs and the apparent water level in well MW 34-9-7-2 is near ground level when the well is completely shut in.

On June 14, 2005, the upper pressure transducer was set to the original installation level of 4.6 fbgs to monitor the overall trend of wellhead pressures since May 2002. The calculated differential well pressure curve in Figure 3 for the period of record with the upper transducer set at 4.6 fbgs shows minor seasonal fluctuations in differential pressure within an overall gradually declining trend since January 2006. The well differential pressure was about 208.09 psi on January 1, 2006 and about 206.39 psi on December 10, 2008, a small decline of about 1.7 psi.

**Figure 3**  
**Pressure Transducer Data**  
**Basin Creek Well MW-34-9-7-2**



**Calculated Wellhead and Bottomhole Pressure Differential (psia)**



## 2.2.2 SOUTH FORK TEXAS CREEK

Monitor wells MW 35-7-8-1 and MW 35-7-8-2 have been monitored since November 29, 2001. Initial and ending well pressures and calculated water levels in the monitor wells are summarized in Table 5 for the indicated period of record.

**Table 5**  
**Well Pressure Data Summary for South Fork Texas Creek Monitoring Wells**

Well ID and Transducers (XD)	Period of Record	Initial Well Pressure psia	Ending Well Pressure psia	Net Change in Well Pressure psi	Initial Water Level in Well fbgs	Ending Water Level in Well fbgs	Net Water Level Change in Well ft
MW 35-7-8-1 Upper XD	12/01/01 to	13.79	12.70	-1.09	88.39	132.95	-44.56
Lower XD	12/10/08	144.47	124.08	-20.39			
MW 35-7-8-2 Upper XD	1/15/02 to	91.32 <sup>1</sup>	65.01	Incomplete shut-in	Water level in well is >225 fbgs with complete shut-in;		
Lower XD	12/10/08	91.91 <sup>1</sup>	67.32	Incomplete shut-in			

<sup>1</sup> Both bottomhole and wellhead pressure are typically the same in MW 35-7-8-2 with complete shut in.

### MW 35-7-8-1

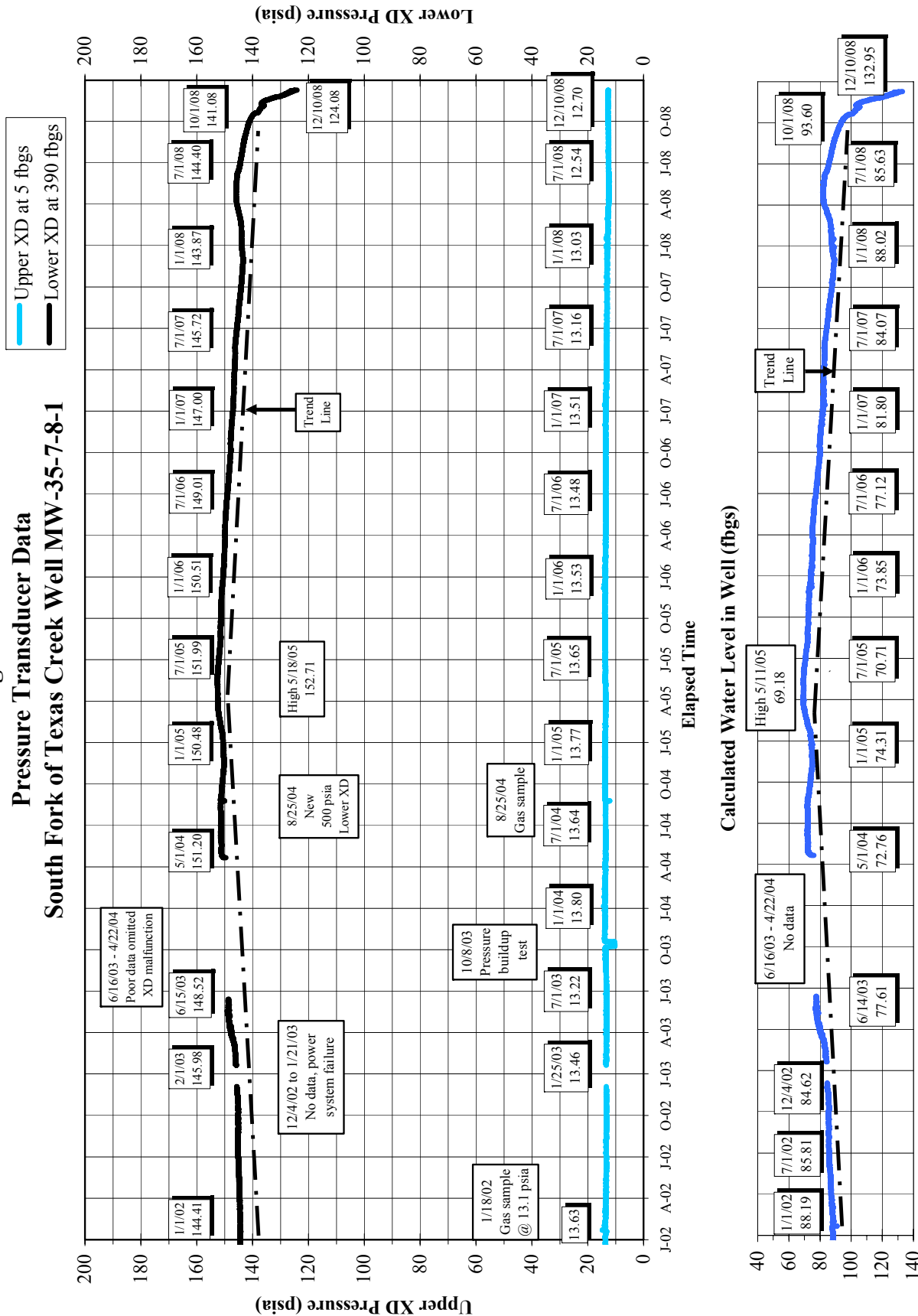
Monitoring data for MW 35-7-8-1 are charted in Figure 4. As summarized in Table 5 for the 7-year period of record, the net change in wellhead and bottomhole pressures are -1.09 psi and -20.39 psi respectively. The net change in the calculated water level in the well is -44.56 feet.

Figure 4 shows a relatively stable wellhead pressure for the period of record, with well pressures consistently ranging between 12.4 psia and 13.8 psia, about 1 to 2.5 psi above atmospheric pressure. The data logger recorded an atmospheric pressure at this site of about 11.24 psi. on December 10, 2008.

Figure 4 shows a trend of gradually rising water level and corresponding increasing bottomhole pressure in the well for the period of record between November 2001 and May 2005, followed by a gradually declining trend between May 2005 and October 2008. Figure 4 also shows slight seasonal fluctuations in bottomhole pressure and the calculated water level in the well within the overall increasing trend prior to May 2005, and slight to moderate seasonal fluctuations within the overall declining trend between May 2005 and October 2008.

Between October 2008 and December 2008, the water level and corresponding bottomhole pressure curves show an apparent accelerated rate of decline, as compared with the gradually declining trend shown in Figure 4 during the 3.4-year period between May 2005 and October 2008. Since there was no corresponding measurable difference in wellhead pressure, the observed bottomhole pressure decline is attributed to the decline in the well water level.

**Figure 4**  
**Pressure Transducer Data**  
**South Fork of Texas Creek Well MW-35-7-8-1**



**MW 35-7-8-2**

Figure 5 charts the pressure data for well MW 35-7-8-2, which exhibits an entirely different pressure regime than the deeper monitoring well MW 35-7-8-1. Figure 5 shows nearly equal wellhead and bottomhole pressures for the period of record when the well is completely shut in. For example, wellhead and bottomhole pressures recorded on September 3, 2008 were 88.12 psia and 87.91 psia respectively.

After about March 1, 2005, both upper and lower transducer charts show a differential drop in well pressure caused by leaks from several wellhead fittings. After the leaky fittings were replaced on June 14, 2005, well pressures gradually returned to previous levels with complete wellhead shut in.

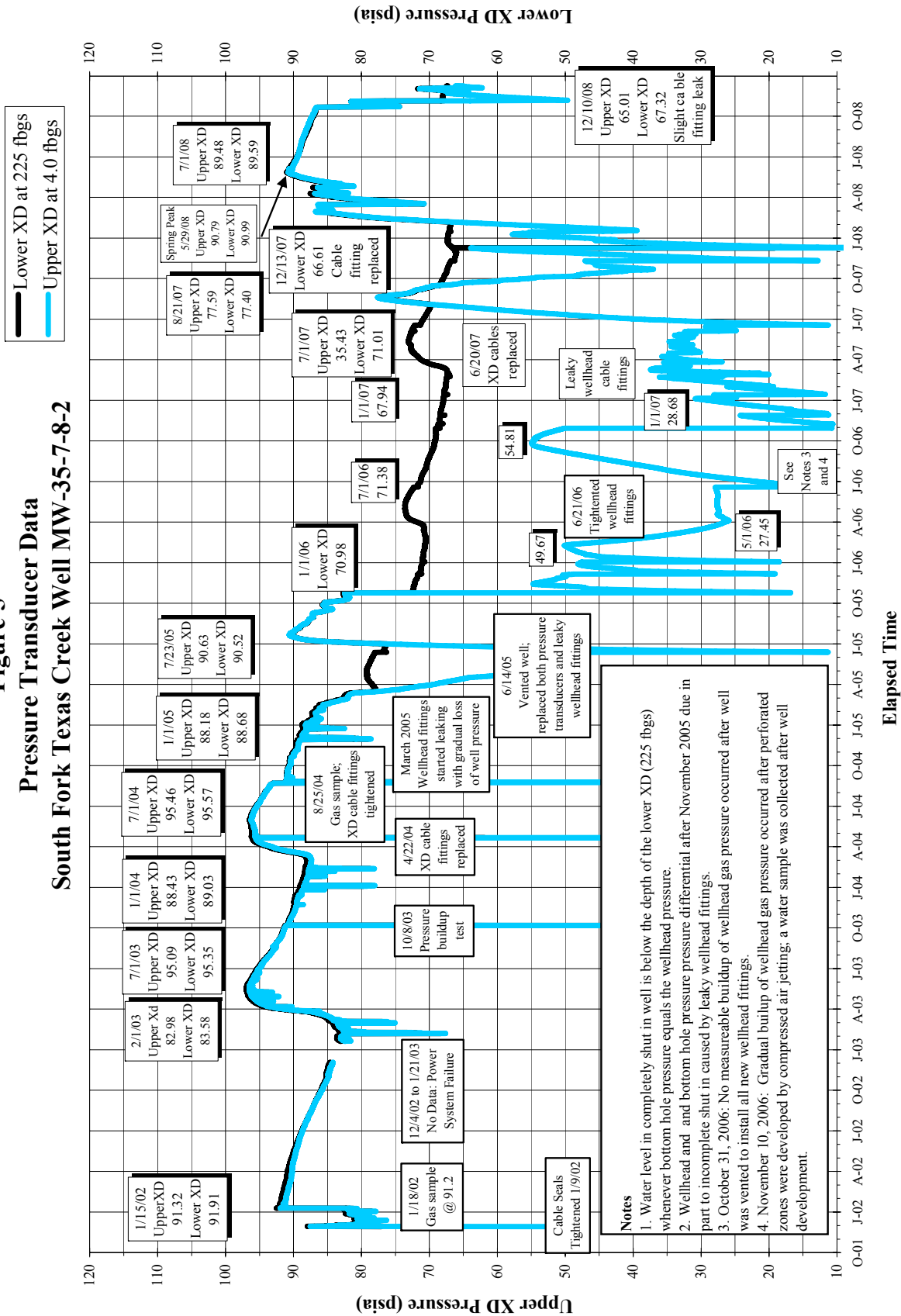
The occurrences of leaky fittings resulting in incomplete wellhead shut in have provided the opportunity to observe that the well acts as a gas and water separator. The water in the well is gradually displaced by gas after the well is shut in and entirely displaced by gas once the wellhead pressure equals the bottomhole pressure. For example, the depth to water in the vented well on June 14, 2005 was calculated to be about 75 feet below ground surface based on the differential well pressures of 11.33 psia (wellhead) and 76.56 psia (bottomhole). The charts in Figure 5 show differential well pressures after the well was shut in on June 14, 2005 and until the wellhead pressure buildup equaled the bottomhole pressure of approximately 76 psia on July 2, 2005.

Leak-proof transducer cable seals required for complete well shut in have been difficult to maintain at the MW 35-7-8-2 wellhead since October 2005. One or more gas leaks from wellhead cable connections were confirmed during wellhead inspections performed in 2006 and 2007. Figure 5 shows the wellhead pressure is erratic for the period of record between October 2005 and December 2007. The cause of this erratic pattern is apparently related to leaky wellhead fittings rather than an erratic change in wellhead pressure since the bottomhole pressure curve does not show erratic pressure fluctuations for the same period of record.

True pressures and trends can not be measured until a complete shut in is accomplished. Attempts to achieve leak-proof seals in 2006 and 2007 included tightening of fitting connections, installation of new connection fittings and replacement of the cable strain relief fitting elastomer inserts. In addition, the thin-walled transducer cables originally installed in the well were replaced with rugged polyethylene cable on June 20, 2007. After the wellhead was shut in on June 20, 2007, the well pressure curves indicate complete shut in of the well was achieved until the buildup of both bottom hole and wellhead pressures peaked at about 77 psia on August 21, 2007 (see Figure 5). The charted decline and erratic pattern of wellhead pressure after August 21, 2007 is indicative of a potentially incomplete shut in. The recurrence of incomplete shut in was confirmed by detection of a wellhead gas leak at the upper pressure transducer cable strain relief connection during the November 12, 2007 wellhead inspection. This strain relief replacement fitting did not maintain a leak-proof seal at the cable connection and was subsequently changed to incorporate a different type of transducer cable connection.

On December 12, 2007, the upper pressure transducer cable strain relief fitting was replaced with a bored-through Swagelok tube fitting with a nylon ferrule designed to provide a leak-proof seal at polyethylene cable connections. This fitting was not leaking when inspected on December 10, 2008; however, a slight leak was detected in the lower transducer cable strain relief fitting and may account for the erratic fluctuations in the well pressure curve between October 2008 and December 10, 2008.

**Figure 5**  
**Pressure Transducer Data**  
**South Fork Texas Creek Well MW-35-7-8-2**





### 2.2.3 BEAVER CREEK RANCH

Well MW 35-6-17-1 has been monitored since May 21, 2002 and well MW 35-6-17-2 has been monitored since November 30, 2001. Initial and ending well pressures and calculated water levels in the monitor wells are summarized in Table 6 for the indicated period of record.

**Table 6**  
**Well Pressure Data Summary for Beaver Creek Ranch Monitoring Wells**

Well ID and Transducers (XD)	Period of Record	Initial Well Pressure psia	Ending Well Pressure psia	Net Change in Well Pressure psi	Initial Water Level in Well fbg	Ending Water Level in Well fbg	Net Water Level Change in Well ft
MW 35-6-17-1 Upper XD	08/01/02 to 12/10/08	15.44	77.23	61.79	194.37	451.17	-256.80
Lower XD		609.55	560.03	-49.52			
MW 35-6-17-2 Upper XD	06/15/02 to 12/10/08	614.23	483.50	-130.73	1,377.64	No Data Lower XD removed	--
Lower XD		632.63	XD removed	--			

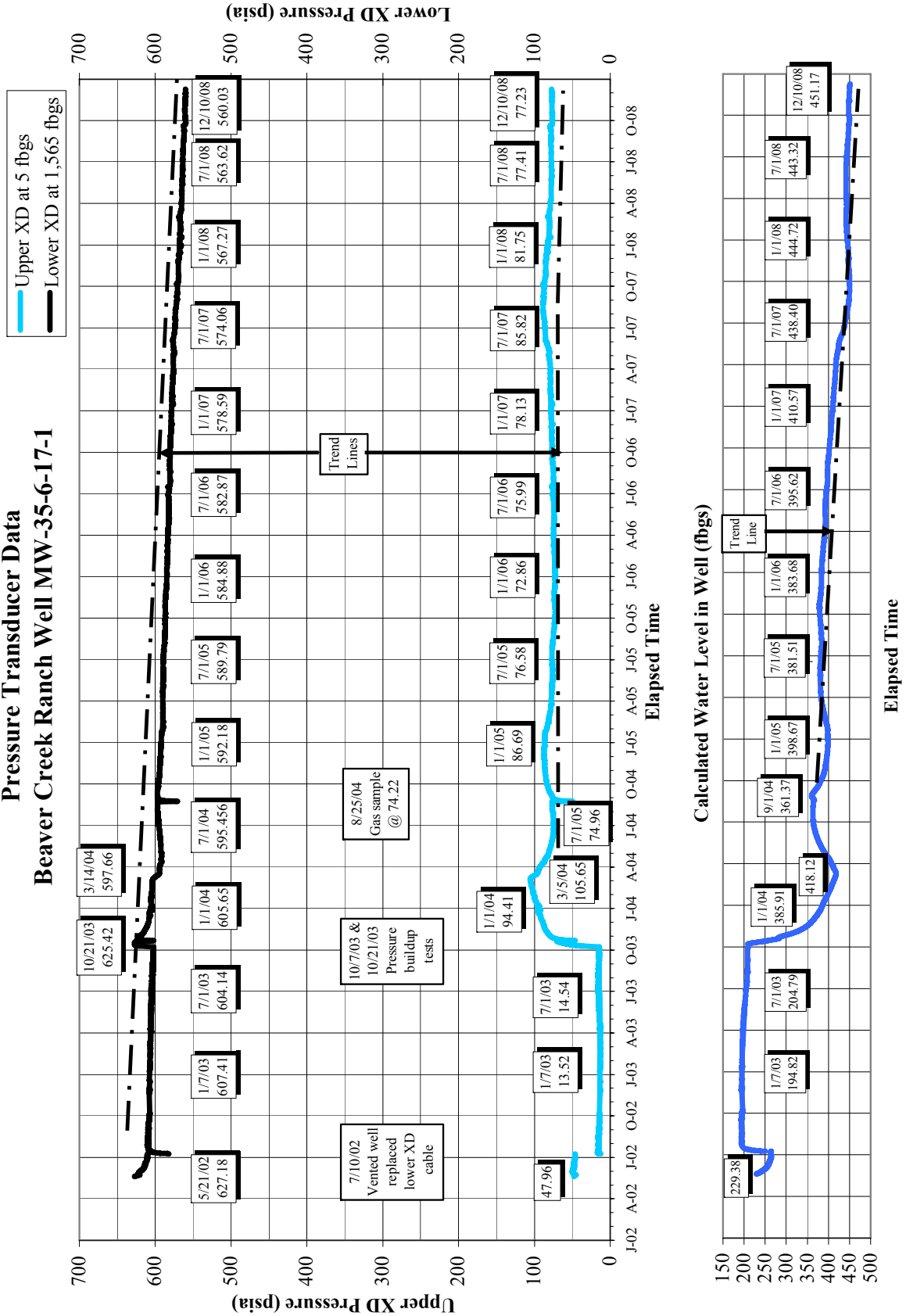
#### MW 35-6-17-1

Monitoring data for well MW 35-6-27-1 are charted in Figure 6. As described below, the pressure regime for this well is different than the regime exhibited by well MW 35-6-17-2.

Figure 6 shows a notable change in well pressure regime subsequent to two pressure buildup tests conducted on October 7, 2003 and October 21, 2003. Between October 7, 2003 and March 5, 2004, the wellhead pressure increased about 91.3 psi, from 14.36 psia to a recorded high of 105.65 psia. This pattern was followed by a gradual wellhead pressure decline until July 2005, followed by a gradual increase in pressure through January 2005. Since January 2005, Figure 3 shows annual fluctuations between about 77 psia and 87 psia within an overall flat wellhead pressure trend.

Figure 6 also shows changes in the water level regime since the October 7, 2003 buildup test. The calculated water level in the well declined almost 200 feet, from 219.08 fbg on October 7, 2003 to 418.12 fbg on March 10, 2004, and then rose to about 361.4 fbg by September 1, 2004. Since September 1, 2004, Figure 6 shows slight seasonal fluctuations in the water level and corresponding bottom hole pressure curves within an overall declining trend. The net decline in the calculated water level during the 4.25-year period between September 1, 2004 (361.37 fbg) and December 10, 2008 (451.17 fbg) was about 90 feet, an average of about 21.2 feet per year.

**Figure 6**  
**Pressure Transducer Data**  
**Beaver Creek Ranch Well MW-35-6-17-1**



**MW 35-6-17-2**

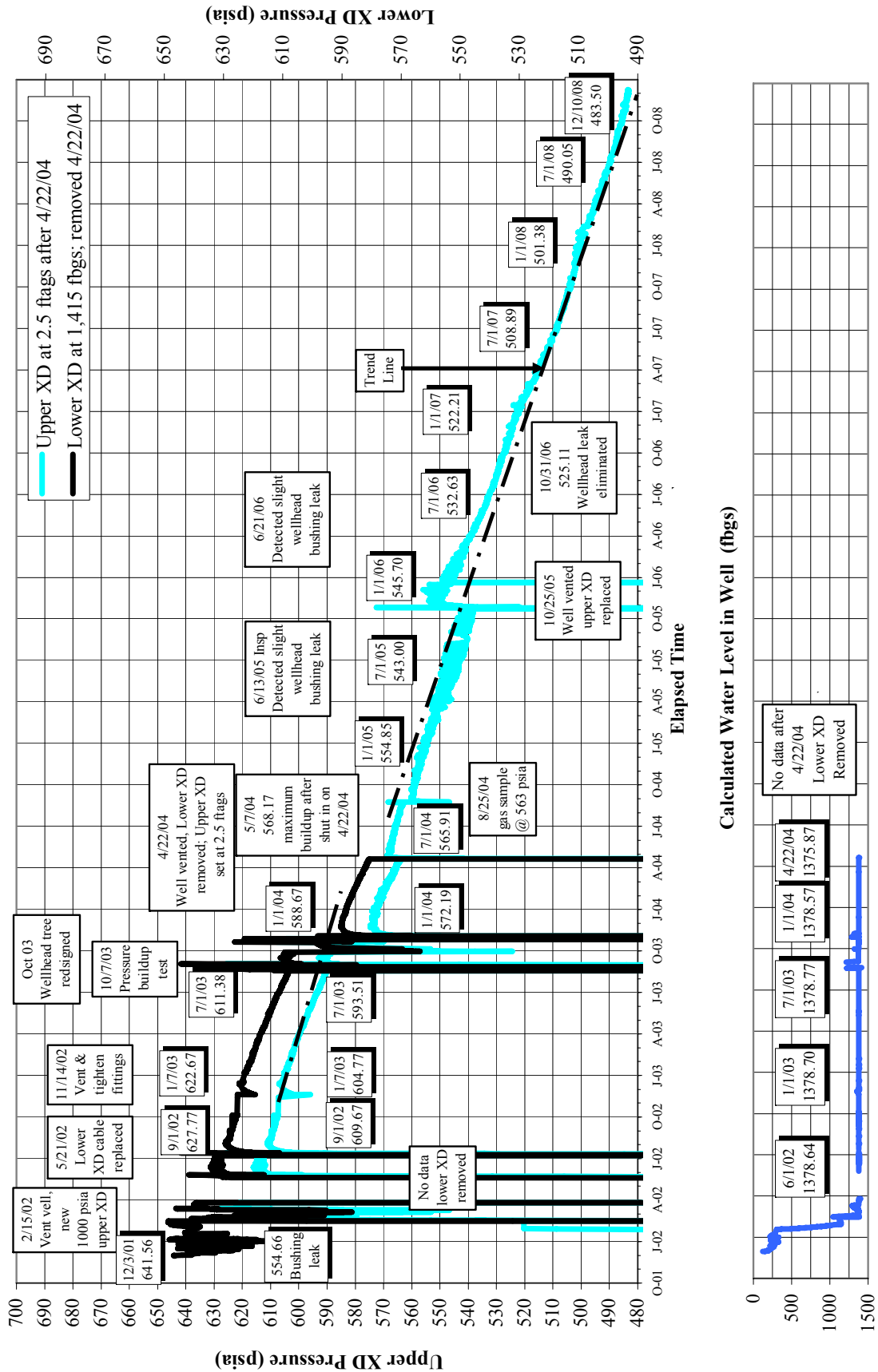
Wellhead pressure, bottomhole pressure, and calculated well water level data for well MW 35-6-17-2 are charted in Figure 7 and summarized in Table 6 for the period of record. Monitoring of bottomhole pressure ended after the lower transducer was removed from the well on April 22, 2004.

The wellhead pressure has been measured in excess of 600 psia, which is notably higher than in the other 3M monitoring wells. However, the wellhead was not completely shut in between February 2002 and mid-April 2004 because of a variety of wellhead fittings leaks. Consequently, the pressure data charted in Figure 7 between February 15, 2002 and April 22, 2004 are only considered to be minimum values.

True pressures and trends could not be measured until a complete shut in was accomplished in April 2004 after the well was vented and both pressure transducer systems were removed from inside the well. One 1000 psia transducer was adapted to tap directly into the top of the flanged wellhead assembly. This external transducer adaptation makes it possible to measure wellhead pressure without passing flexible transducer cables through the wellhead assembly. Bottomhole pressure and water level data are not available without a lower pressure transducer set below the water level in the well.

After the well was shut in again on April 22, 2002, Figure 7 shows a relatively rapid build up in wellhead pressure to a maximum of 568.17 psia on May 7, 2004. Quarterly well inspections in 2005 and 2006 revealed a very slight leak from the pressure transducer bushing, which may have contributed to this gradual decline in pressure. The wellhead leak was eliminated on October 31, 2006 by permanently sealing the bushing to the flanged plate. True wellhead pressures charted after a complete shut in was accomplished on October 31, 2006 confirm a continuing trend of gradually declining well pressures. During the last 4.25 years of record, the wellhead pressure curve shows an over all steady decline to a record low of 483.5 psia on December 10, 2008.

**Figure 7**  
**Pressure Transducer Data**  
**Beaver Creek Ranch Well MW-35-6-17-2**



## 2.2.4 SHAMROCK MINES

Well MW 35-6-13-1 monitoring data are charted in Figures 8 and summarized in Table 7 for the entire 6.5-year period of record. Since there are no producing wells in close proximity to this area, this well is used to collect background data and has been monitored continuously since May 22, 2002.

**Table 7**  
**Well Pressure Data Summary for Shamrock Mines Monitoring Well**

Well ID and Transducers (XD)	Period of Record	Initial Well Pressure psia	Ending Well Pressure psia <sup>1</sup>	Net Change in Well Pressure psi	Initial Water Level in Well fbgs	Ending Water Level in Well fbgs <sup>1</sup>	Net Water Level Change in Well ft
MW 35-6-13-1 Upper XD	5/22/02 to 12/10/08	12.06	11.53	Atmospheric Pressure	39.66	35.83	3.83
Lower XD		211.60	212.73	1.13			

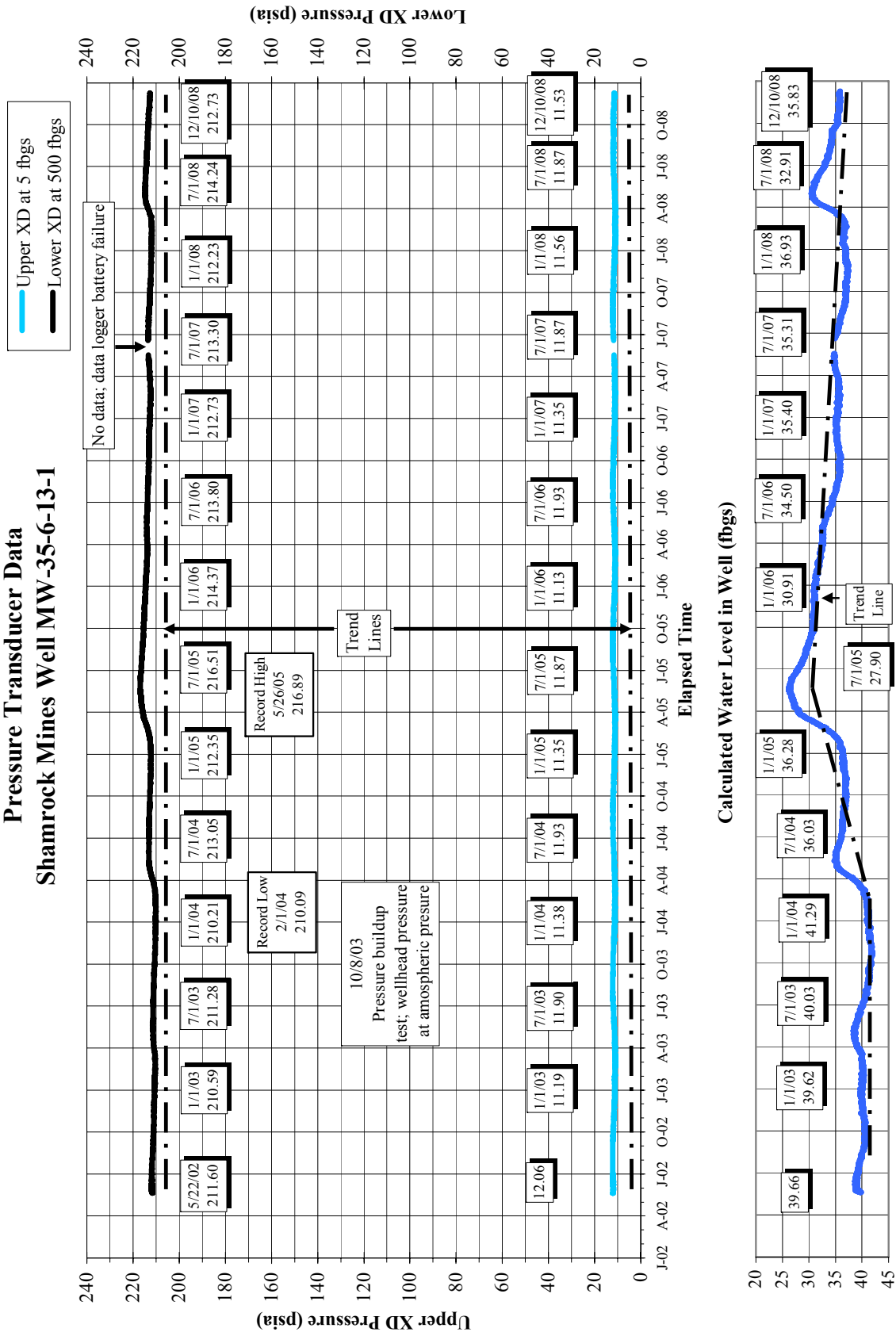
<sup>1</sup> On May 26, 2005, the measured bottomhole pressure (216.89 psia) and calculated depth to water (26.53 ft) in well MW 35-6-13-1 were at their highest levels for the period of record.

Figure 8 shows the wellhead pressure regime continues to be stable at about atmospheric pressure and fluctuates within a range of 1 psi (between 11 psia and 12 psia). With wellhead pressure equal to atmospheric pressure, bottomhole pressure is equal to atmospheric pressure plus water pressure, which is a function of the water level in the well. Table 7 shows a measured bottomhole pressure of 212.73 psia when the water level in the well is 335.83 feet below ground surface. Figure 8 also shows the bottomhole pressure and calculated water level in the well continue to exhibit a similar trend of seasonal fluctuation. With wellhead pressure equal to atmospheric pressure, fluctuation of bottomhole pressure is attributable to the fluctuation of water pressure resulting from the fluctuation of the water level in the well.

Since June 2005, Figure 8 shows slight seasonal fluctuations in the calculated water level and bottomhole pressure curves within an overall slightly declining trend from June 2005 through mid-February 2008. During the 10-month period between February 17, 2008 and December 10, 2008, Figure 8 shows a seasonal rise and decline in bottomhole pressure in response to a rise and decline in the water level.

Prior to February 2004, Figure 8 shows seasonal fluctuations in bottomhole pressure and water level curves within an overall slightly declining trend, followed by seasonal fluctuations of higher magnitude within an overall moderately increasing trend from February 2004 through May 2005. On May 26, 2005, the bottomhole pressure peaked at a record high of 216.89 psia and the water level in the well peaked at a record high of 26.53 feet below ground surface. The decline and subsequent increase in bottomhole pressure and the water level in the well during the 3-year period between May 2002 and June 2005 may be related to the return to more “normal” levels of precipitation in 2004 and 2005 after several years of “drought.”

**Figure 8**  
**Pressure Transducer Data**  
**Shamrock Mines Well MW-35-6-13-1**



### **3.0 FUTURE WORK**

Routine work will continue to include periodic checks of each monitoring system and download of recorded pressure measurement data. Planned maintenance activities during the first quarter of 2009 may include inspection of all monitor well sites and download of data logger records. The current well monitoring data loggers and telemetry systems use analog technology. Digital data logger and satellite communication systems are required to continue with remote monitoring well pressures. Alternatives for converting to digital monitoring systems will be evaluated by the COGCC in 2009 in conjunction with the planned expansion of the monitoring well program in La Plata and Archuleta counties. In the meantime, the Hermit 3000 Data Loggers will continue to be used to automatically record well pressure measurements and logger data will be extracted from the Hermits on site.