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*Instruction Manual*

## Model 4500 series

Vibrating Wire Piezometer



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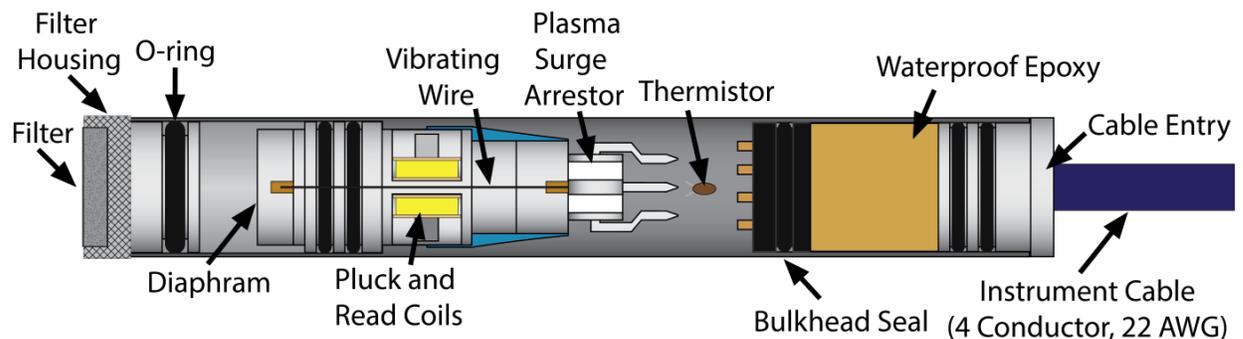
## **1. THEORY OF OPERATION**

GEOKON model 4500 Vibrating Wire Piezometers are intended primarily for long-term measurements of fluid depths and pore pressures in standpipes, boreholes, embankments, pipelines, and pressure vessels. Several different models are available to suit a variety of Geotechnical applications. Calibration data is supplied with each piezometer.

All GEOKON vibrating wire piezometers utilize a sensitive stainless steel diaphragm (with the exception of model 4500C, which employs bellows) to which a vibrating wire element is connected. During use, changing pressures on the diaphragm cause it to deflect. This deflection is measured as a change in tension and frequency of vibration of the vibrating wire element. The square of the vibration frequency is directly proportional to the pressure applied to the diaphragm. A filter is used to keep out solid particles and prevent damage to the sensitive diaphragm. Standard filters are 50-micron stainless steel. High air entry value filters are available upon request.

Two coils, one with a magnet insert, the other with a pole piece insert, are installed near the vibrating wire. In use, a pulse of varying frequency (swept frequency) is applied to these coils, causing the wire to vibrate primarily at its resonant frequency. When the excitation ends, the wire continues to vibrate. During vibration, a sinusoidal signal is induced in the coils and transmitted to the readout box where it is conditioned and displayed.

Portable readout units are available to provide the excitation, signal conditioning, and readout of the instrument. Datalogger systems, which allow remote, unattended data collection of multiple sensors, are also available. Contact GEOKON for additional information.



**Figure 1 - Model 4500S Vibrating Wire Piezometer**

All exposed components are made of corrosion resistant stainless steel. If proper installation techniques are used, the device should have an unlimited life.

In salt water, it may be necessary to use special materials for the diaphragm and housing. The 4500INCO and 4500TI series piezometers are specifically designed to be used in this type of environment.

## **2. QUICK START INSTRUCTIONS**

For those familiar with Geotechnical instrumentation and its installation, the following quick start instructions may be used. For more detailed instructions see Section 3.

- 1) Prior to installation, allow the piezometer to come to thermal equilibrium for a minimum of 15 minutes. (Alternatively, if the instrument is attached to a readout box, wait until the piezometer reading has stabilized.)
- 2) Record the piezometer reading, barometric pressure, and temperature while the piezometer is experiencing zero (atmospheric) pressure. This is what is known as the “initial zero” reading.
- 3) Verify that the initial zero reading for the piezometer is compatible with the factory supplied zero reading on the calibration report.
- 4) Carefully measure and mark the cable where it will lie at the top of the borehole, well, or standpipe, once the piezometer has reached the desired depth. (The piezo diaphragm lies 3/4 of an inch above the tip of the piezometer.)
- 5) Saturate the piezometer filter (see Section 3.1). **Warning! Do not allow the piezometer to freeze once the filter stone has been saturated!**
- 6) For installation in standpipes or wells, see Section 4.1, for boreholes Section 4.2, and for fills and embankments Section 4.3.

## **3. PRIOR TO INSTALLATION**

### **3.1 Saturating Filter Tips**

#### **Warning! Do not allow the piezometer to freeze once the filter stone has been saturated!**

See Section 4.8 for information about protecting the piezometer from freezing.

Most filter tips can be removed for saturation and then reassembled. To maintain saturation, the unit should be kept underwater until installation. If the piezometer is used in a standpipe where it will be raised and lowered frequently, the filter housing may loosen over time, and a permanent filter assembly may be required. The removable filter may be fixed permanently by prick punching the piezometer tube approximately 1/16" to 1/8" behind the filter assembly joint.

Salts in the water can be deposited into the filter stone causing it to become clogged if it is allowed to dry out completely. Filter stones may be replaced with screens for standpipe installations. Screens available from GEOKON are less likely than standard filters to collect salt and become clogged.

#### **3.1.1 Saturating Low Air Entry (Standard) Filters**

For accurate results, total saturation of the filter is necessary. As the piezometer is lowered into the water, water is forced into the filter, compressing the air in the space between the filter stone and the pressure sensitive diaphragm. After a period, this air will dissolve into the water, filling the filter and the space above it entirely with water.

To speed up the saturation process, remove the filter from the piezometer by carefully twisting and pulling on the filter housing assembly (or unscrewing the point of the piezometer for model 4500DP). Hold the piezometer with the filter facing up and fill the space above the diaphragm with water. Slowly replace the filter housing, allowing the water to squeeze through the filter stone as it is installed. For piezometers with a range of less than 10 psi, take readings with a readout box while reinstalling the filter housing to ensure the piezometer is not overranged.

#### **3.1.2 Saturating High Air Entry Ceramic Filters**

Because of the high air entry characteristics of the ceramic filter, de-airing is particularly important. Different air entry values require different saturation procedures.

##### **3.1.2.1 One Bar Filters**

- 1) Remove the filter from the piezometer by carefully twisting and pulling on the filter housing assembly.
- 2) Boil the filter assembly in de-aired water.
- 3) Reassemble the piezometer under the surface of a container of de-aired water. Use a readout box while installing the filter to monitor the diaphragm pressure. If the piezometer begins to overrange, allow the pressure to dissipate before pushing further.
- 4) Be sure that no air is trapped in the transducer cavity.

### 3.1.2.2 Two Bar and Higher Filters

The proper procedure for de-airing and saturating these filters is somewhat complex; therefore, it is recommended that saturation be done at the factory by GEOKON. If saturation must be done in the field, carefully follow the instructions below:

- 1) Place the assembled piezometer, filter down, in a vacuum chamber that has an inlet port at the bottom for de-aired water.
- 2) Close off the water inlet and evacuate the chamber. The transducer should be monitored while the chamber is being evacuated.
- 3) When maximum vacuum has been achieved, allow de-aired water to enter the chamber until it reaches an elevation a few inches above the piezometer filter.
- 4) Close off the inlet port.
- 5) Release the vacuum.
- 6) Observe the transducer output. It may take up to 24 hours for the filter to completely saturate and the pressure to rise to zero.
- 7) After saturation, the transducer should be kept in a container of de-aired water until installation. If de-aired at the factory a special cap is applied to the piezometer to maintain saturation.

### **3.1.3 Saturating Model 4500C Filter Tips**

**WARNING! The filter housing is not removable on the 4500C. Any attempt to remove the filter stone or the housing will destroy the transducer!**

If the pressure to be measured is less than 5 psi the filter stone must be saturated. A hand operated vacuum pump and short length of half inch surgical tubing is required. Hand pumps and tubing are available from the factory. (A hand pump that has been used successfully is the MityvacII® by Lincoln Industries Corp. of St. Louis, MO.)

The saturation procedure is as follows:

- 1) Attach the tube to the transducer as shown in Figure 2.
- 2) Fill the tubing with approximately two inches (five centimeters) of water.
- 3) Attach the other end of the tube to the hand vacuum pump.

- 4) While holding the transducer so that the water rests on the filter, but does not enter the pump, squeeze the hand pump to initiate a vacuum inside the tubing. This will draw the air out of the filter and the area behind it, replacing it with water. A vacuum of 20 to 25" Hg. (50 to 65 cm Hg.) is enough for proper air evacuation.

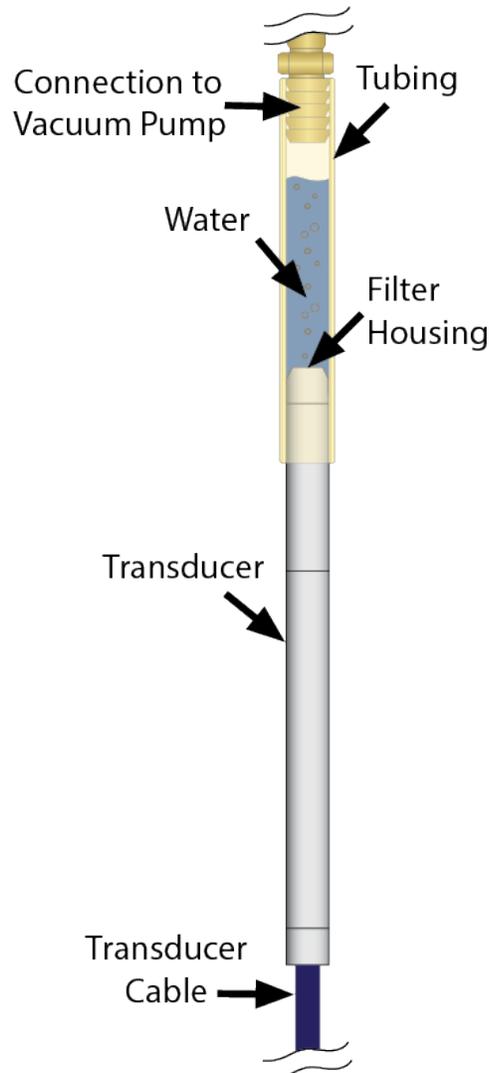


Figure 2 - 4500C Saturation

### 3.2 Establishing an Initial Zero Reading

Vibrating Wire Piezometers differ from other types of pressure sensors in that they indicate a reading when no pressure is exerted on the sensor. **It is imperative that an accurate initial zero reading be obtained for each piezometer, as this reading will be used for all subsequent data reduction.**

Generally, the initial zero reading is obtained by reading the instrument prior to installation. There are several different ways of taking an initial zero reading. The essential element in all methods is that the piezometer needs to thermally stabilize in a constant temperature environment while the pressure on the piezometer is barometric only. Because of the way the piezometer is constructed, it usually takes 15 to 20 minutes for the temperature of all the different elements to equalize.

A question may arise as to what to do with the filter stone while taking zero readings. If a standard stainless steel filter is being used, it will not matter if the filter stone is saturated or not. However, if the piezometer is equipped with a ceramic high air entry filter stone, then it must be saturated while taking the zero readings.

It will be necessary to measure the barometric pressure only if the piezometer is unvented and it will be installed in a location that is subject to barometric pressure changes that would require correction, such as in an open well. A piezometer sealed in place at depth could be recording pressures in groundwater that is not hydraulically connected to the atmosphere, for which barometric pressure compensation would be inappropriate. See Section 6.3 for more information on Barometric corrections.

Calibration data is supplied with each gauge, a factory zero reading taken at a specific temperature and absolute barometric pressure is included. (See Appendix E for a sample calibration report.) Zero readings at the site should coincide with the factory readings within 50 digits, after barometric and temperature corrections are made. Barometric pressures change with elevation at a rate of approximately 3.45 kPa (½ psi) per 300 meters (1,000 ft.). The factory elevation is +580 feet. All stated barometric readings represent absolute pressure uncorrected for height above sea level. A thermistor is included inside the body of the piezometer for the measurement of temperature.

**NOTE REGARDING THE 4500C:** The construction of this very slender vibrating wire transducer requires a miniaturization of the internal parts, which consequently are somewhat delicate. **Handle the transducer with care during the installation procedure.** Despite taking every precaution to ensure that the transducer arrives unharmed, it is possible for the zero to shift during shipment due to rough handling. However, tests have shown that though the zero may shift, the calibration factors do not change. Therefore, it is doubly important that an initial no load zero reading be taken prior to installation.

### 3.2.1 Recommended Method for Establishing an Initial Zero Reading

- 1) Saturate the filter stone per Section 3.1. **Warning! Do not allow the piezometer to freeze once the filter stone has been saturated!**
- 2) Replace the filter stone.
- 3) Hang the piezometer in the borehole at a point just above the water.
- 4) Wait until the piezometer reading has stopped changing.
- 5) Take the zero and temperature readings.

### **3.2.2 Alternative Method One**

- 1) Place the piezometer under water in a bucket.
- 2) Allow 15 to 20 minutes for the temperature of the unit to stabilize.
- 3) Use the instrument cable to lift the piezometer out of the water. Do not handle the piezometer housing; body heat from the hands could cause temperature transients.
- 4) Immediately take a zero and temperature reading.

### **3.2.3 Alternative Method Two**

- 1) Allow 15 to 20 minutes for the temperature of the unit to stabilize.
- 2) Lift the piezometer into the air by the cable only. Do not handle the piezometer housing; body heat from the hand could cause temperature transients.
- 3) Take a zero and temperature reading.  
(If this method is chosen, be sure that the piezometer is protected from sunlight or sudden changes of temperature. Wrapping it in some insulating material is recommended.)

### **3.2.4 Alternative Method Three**

- 1) Lower the piezometer to a known depth marked on the piezometer cable. (The diaphragm inside the piezometer is located approximately 3/4" [15 mm] from the tip.)
- 2) Use a dip meter to accurately measure the depth to the water surface.
- 3) After temperature stabilization, read the piezometer pressure.
- 4) Using the factory calibration constants and a knowledge of the pressure of the water column above the piezometer (height times density), calculate the equivalent zero pressure reading if linear regression is used, or the factor C if the second order polynomial is used.

### 3.3 Checking the Piezometer Performance

If a rough check of the piezometer performance is needed, the following procedure is recommended:

- 1) Lower the piezometer to a point near the bottom of a water-filled borehole, or below the surface of a body of water.
- 2) Allow 15 to 20 minutes for the piezometer to come to thermal equilibrium.
- 3) Using a readout box, record the reading at the current depth.
- 4) Raise the piezometer by a measured increment.
- 5) Record the reading on the readout box at the new depth.
- 6) Using the factory calibration factor, calculate the change in water depth.
- 7) Compare the calculated change in depth with the measured depth increment. The two values should be roughly the same.

#### Alternative method using a dip meter:

- 1) Lower the piezometer tip to a measured depth below the water surface.
- 2) Allow 15 to 20 minutes for the piezometer to come to thermal equilibrium.
- 3) Using a readout box, record the reading at that level.
- 4) Calculate the elevation of the water surface using the given calibration factor.
- 5) Compare the calculated elevation to the elevation measured using the dip meter.

#### A couple of things that can affect this checking procedure:

- If the density of the water is not one gram/cubic centimeter.
- If the water is saline or turbid.
- The water level inside the borehole may vary during the test. This is due to the displacement of water caused by the cable as it is raised and lowered in the borehole. The smaller the borehole is, the greater the displacement will be. For example, a Model 4500S-50KPA piezometer lowered 50 feet below the water column in a one-inch (0.875-inch ID) standpipe will displace the water level by more than four feet.

## 4. INSTALLATION

### 4.1 Installation in Standpipes or Wells

- 1) Saturate the filter stone and establish an initial zero reading by following the steps outlined in Section 3.1 and Section 3.2. (**Warning! Do not allow the piezometer to freeze once the filter stone has been saturated!**)
- 2) Mark the cable where the top of the well or standpipe will reside once the piezometer has reached the desired depth. (The piezometer diaphragm is located 3/4 of an inch above the tip of the piezometer.)
- 3) Lower the piezometer into the standpipe/well.
- 4) Be sure the cable is securely fastened to prevent the piezometer from sliding further into the well and causing an error in the readings.

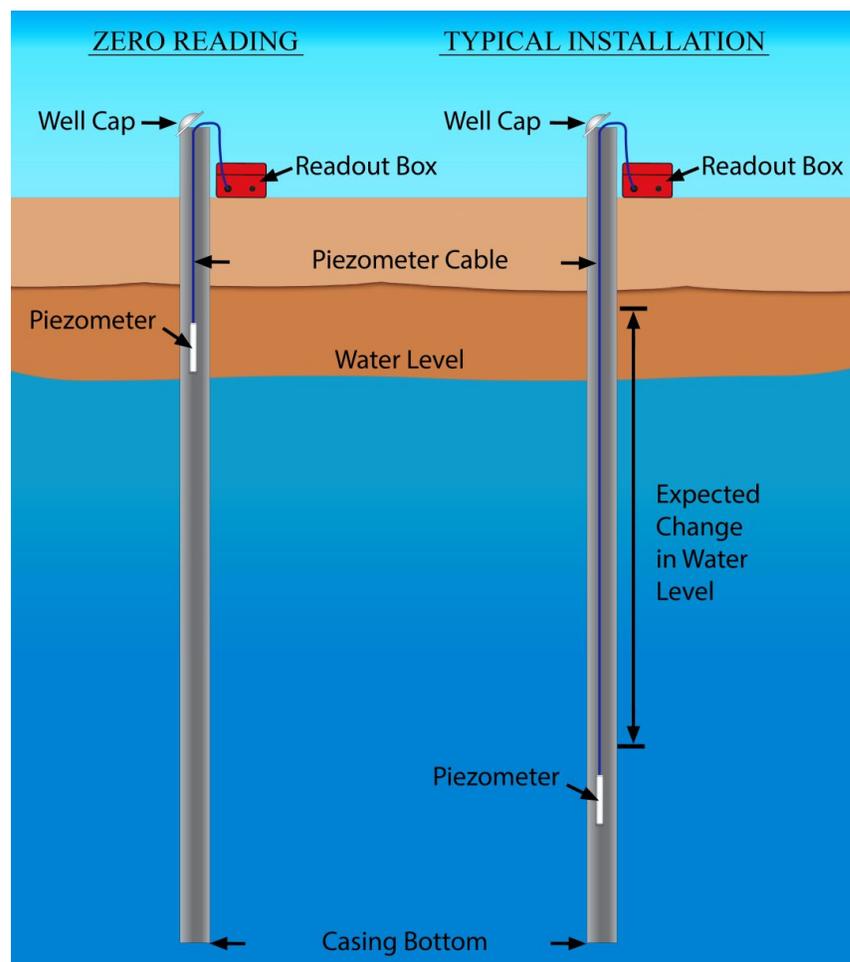


Figure 3 - Typical Level Monitoring Installation

It is not recommended that piezometers be installed in wells or standpipes where an electrical pump or cable is nearby. Electrical interference from these sources can cause unstable readings. If unavoidable, it is recommended that the piezometer be placed inside a piece of steel pipe. In situations where packers are used in standpipes, special care should be taken to avoid cutting the cable jacket with the packer, as this could introduce a possible pressure leak in the cable.

## 4.2 Installation in Boreholes

GEOKON piezometers can be installed in cased or uncased boreholes, in either single or multiple piezometer configurations. If pore pressures in a particular zone are to be monitored, careful attention must be paid to the borehole sealing technique.

The borehole should extend 6 to 12 inches below the proposed piezometer location. Boreholes should be drilled without using drilling mud, or by using a material that degrades rapidly with time, such as Revert™. Wash the borehole clean of drill cuttings. Backfill the borehole with clean fine sand to a point six inches below the desired piezometer tip location. The piezometer can then be lowered into position. (Preferably, the piezometer will be encapsulated in a canvas bag containing clean, saturated sand.) While holding the instrument in position, (a mark on the cable is helpful) fill the borehole with clean fine sand to a point six inches above the piezometer.

Three different methods of isolating the zone to be monitored are detailed below.

### **Installation A:**

Immediately above the area filled with clean fine sand, known as the “collection zone”, the borehole should be sealed by an impermeable bentonite cement grout mix, or with alternating layers of bentonite and sand backfill, tamped in place for approximately one foot, followed by common backfill (see Figure 4).

If multiple piezometers are to be used in a single hole, the bentonite and sand should be tamped in place below and above the upper piezometers, as well as at interval between the piezometer zones. When using tamping tools special care should be taken to ensure that the piezometer cable jackets are not cut during installation, as this could introduce a possible pressure leak in the cable.

### **Installation B:**

The borehole is filled from the “collection zone” upwards with an impermeable bentonite grout (see Figure 4).

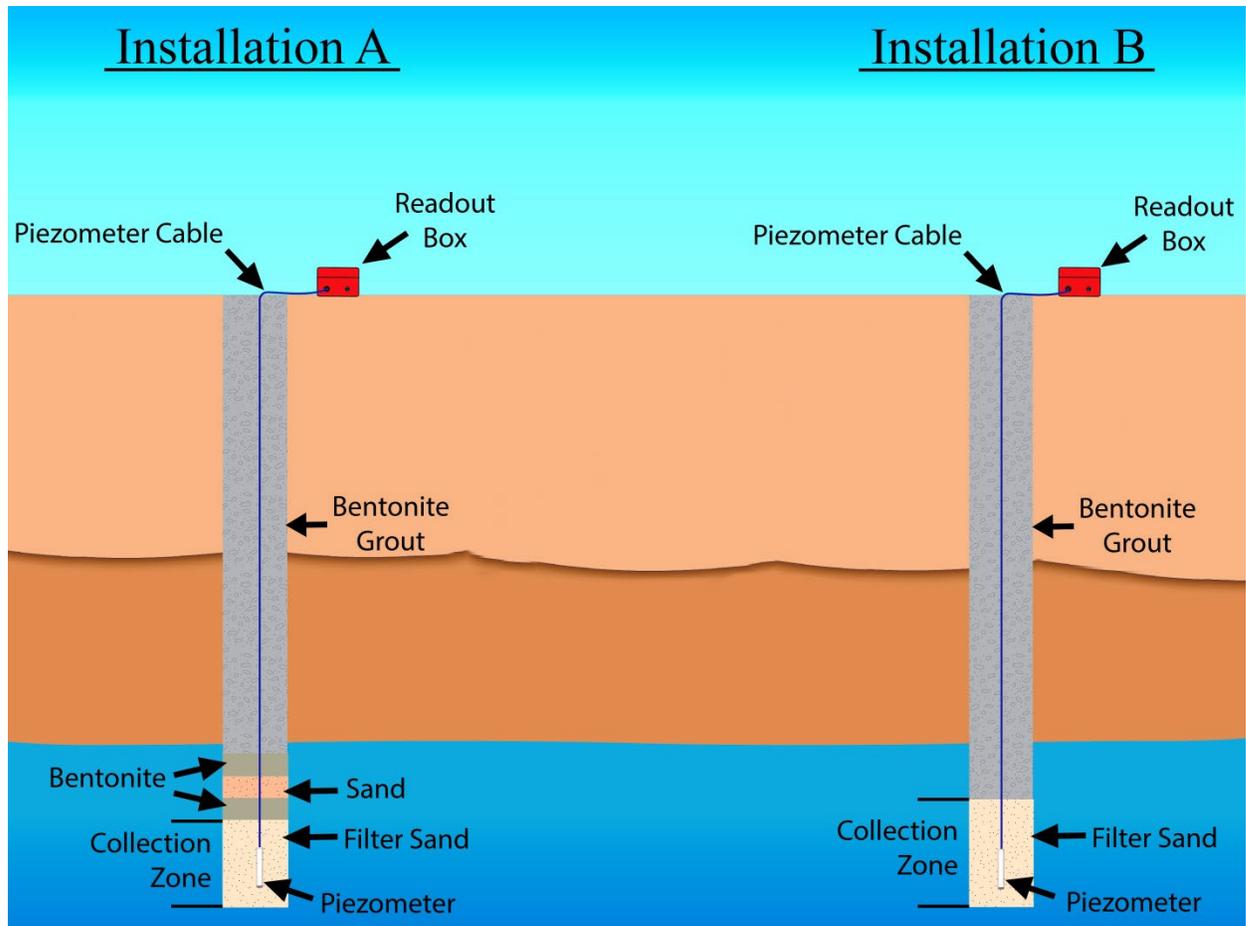


Figure 4 - Typical Borehole Installations

### Installation C:

It should be noted that since the vibrating wire piezometer is essentially a no flow instrument, collection zones of appreciable size are not required. The piezometer can be placed directly in contact with most materials, provided that the fines are not able to migrate through the filter. The latest thinking is that it is not necessary to provide sand zones and that the piezometer can be grouted directly into the borehole using a bentonite cement grout only. However, good results have been obtained by placing the piezometer inside a canvas bag filled with sand before grouting.

The general rule for installing piezometers in this way is to use a bentonite grout that mimics the strength of the surrounding soil. The emphasis should be on controlling the water to cement ratio. This is accomplished by *mixing the cement with the water first*. The most effective way of mixing the two substances is to use a drill rig pump to circulate the mix in a 50 to 200-gallon barrel or tub.

Any kind of bentonite powder combined with Type I or Type II Portland cement can be used to make drilling mud. The exact amount of bentonite needed will vary somewhat. Table 1 shows two possible mixes for strengths of 50 psi and 4 psi.

	<b>50 PSI Grout for Medium to Hard Soils</b>		<b>4 PSI Grout for Soft Soils</b>	
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Ratio by Weight</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Ratio by Weight</b>
<b>Water</b>	30 gallons	2.5	75 gallons	6.6
<b>Portland Cement</b>	94 lb. (one sack)	1	94 lb. (one sack)	1
<b>Bentonite</b>	25 lb. (as required)	0.3	39 lb. (as required)	0.4
Note:	The 28-day compressive strength of this mix is approximately 50 psi, similar to very stiff to hard clay. The modulus is approximately 10,000 psi		The 28-day strength of this mix is approximately 4 psi, similar to very soft clay.	

**Table 1 - Cement/Bentonite/Water ratios**

Add the measured amount of clean water to the barrel then gradually add the cement in the correct weight ratio. Slowly add the bentonite powder so that clumps do not form. Keep adding bentonite until the watery mix turns to an oily/slimy consistency. Let the grout thicken for 5 to 10 minutes. Add more bentonite as required until it is a smooth, thick cream, similar to pancake batter, which is as heavy as it is feasible to pump.

When pumping grout (unless the tremie pipe is to be left in place), withdraw the tremie pipe after each batch, by an amount corresponding to the grout level in the borehole.

**CAUTION! If the grout is pumped into the hole, rather than tremie piped, there is a danger that the piezometer will be overranged and damaged. Pumping directly into the bottom of the borehole should be avoided. It is good practice to read the piezometer while pumping.**

For more details on grouting, refer to “Piezometers in Fully Grouted Boreholes” by Mikkelson and Green, FMGM proceedings Oslo 2003. Copies are available from GEOKON.

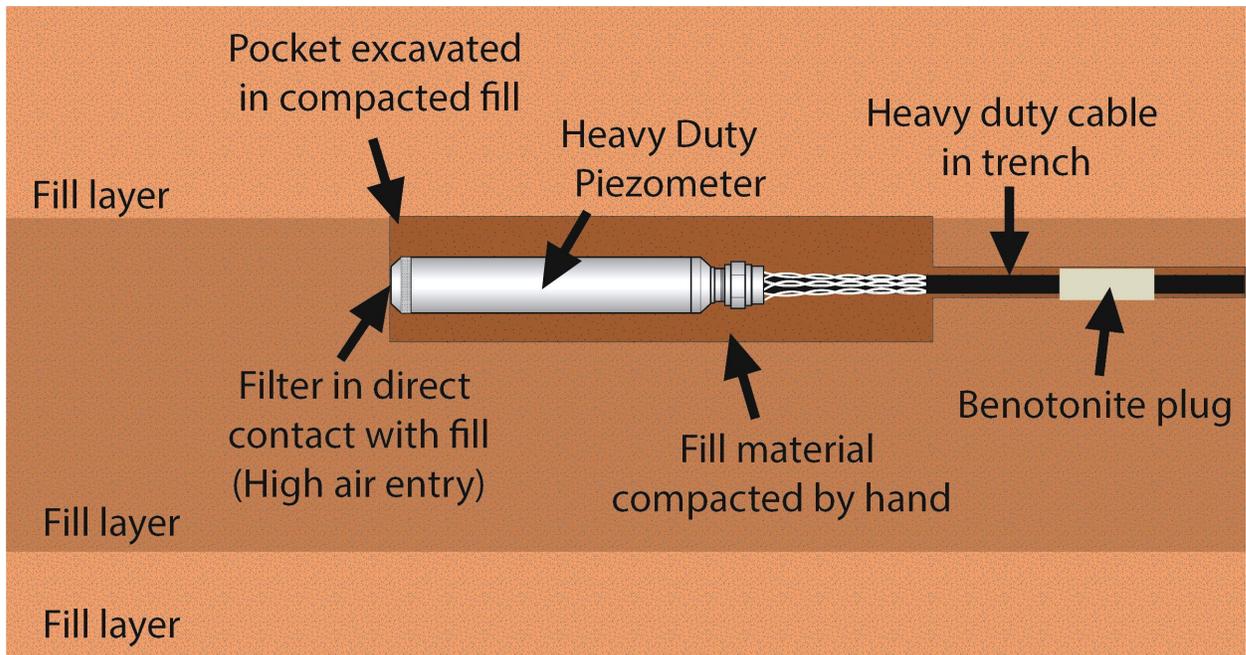
### **4.3 Installation in Fills and Embankments**

GEOKON piezometers are normally supplied with direct burial cable suitable for placement in fills such as highway embankments and dams, both in the core and in the surrounding materials.

For installations in non-cohesive fill materials, the piezometer may be placed directly in the fill, or, if large aggregate sizes are present, in a saturated sand pocket in the fill. If installed in large aggregate, additional measures may be necessary to protect the cable from damage.

In fills such as impervious dam cores, where subatmospheric pore water pressure may need to be measured, (as opposed to the pore air pressure), a ceramic tip with a high air entry value is often used. This type of filter should be carefully placed in direct contact with the compacted fill material. (See Figure 5).

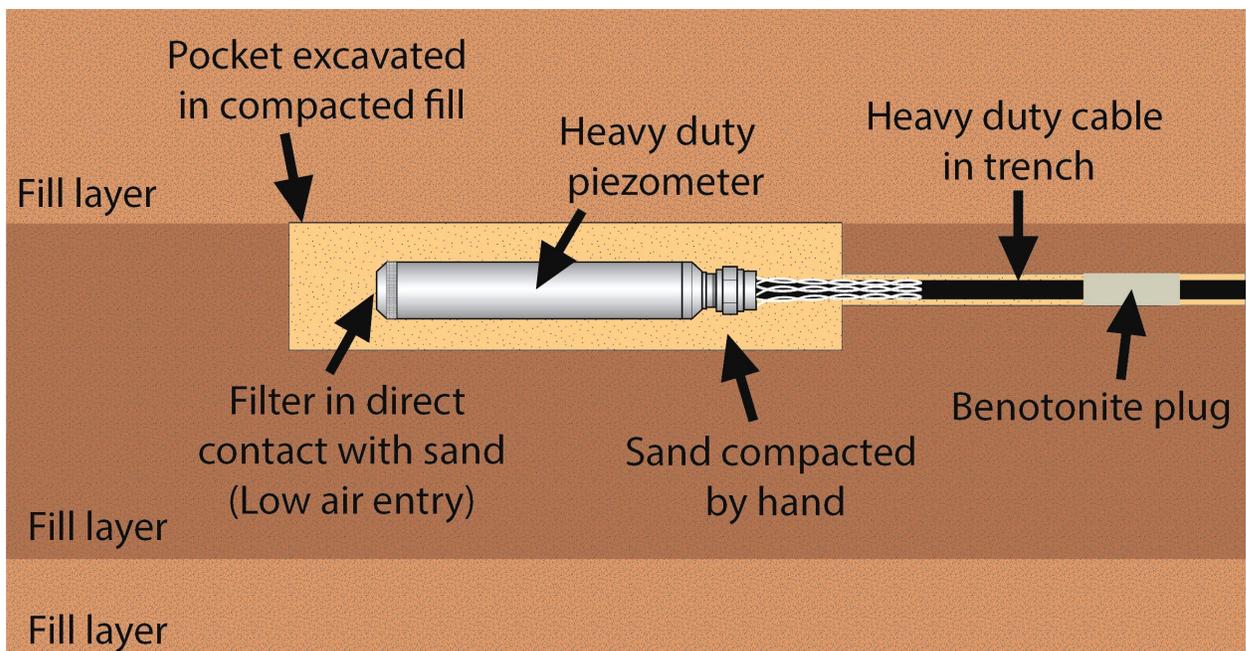
Cables are normally installed inside shallow trenches with the fill material consisting of smaller size aggregate. This fill is carefully hand compacted around the cable. Bentonite plugs are placed at regular intervals to prevent migration of water along the cable path. In high traffic areas and in materials that exhibit pronounced “weaving”, heavy-duty armored cable should be used.



**Figure 5 - High Air Entry Filter**

In partially saturated fills (if only the pore air pressure is to be measured), the standard tip is satisfactory. It should be noted that the standard coarse tip (low air entry) measures the air pressure when there is a difference between the pore air pressure and the pore water pressure. The difference between these two pressures is due to the capillary suction in the soil. The consensus is that the difference is normally of no consequence to embankment stability.

The coarse tip filter is suitable for most routine measurements. Both the installation shown in Figure 5 and the installation shown in Figure 6 may be used with the standard piezometer filter.



**Figure 6 - Low Air Entry Filters ONLY**

#### 4.4 Installation by Pushing or Driving into Soft Soils

The Model 4500DP piezometer is designed to be pushed into soft soils. In soft soils, it can be difficult to keep a borehole open. The 4500DP may eliminate the need for a borehole altogether. The unit is connected directly to the drill rod (AW, EW, or other) and pressed into the ground, either by hand or by means of the hydraulics on the rig (see Figure 7). The units can also be driven into the soil, but there is a possibility that the driving forces may shift the zero reading.

The ground conditions need to be relatively soft for the 4500DP to be effective. Soft soils (like clays or silts) with SPT blow counts under 10 are ideal. In stiffer soils, it is possible to drill a hole and then push the 4500DP only a few feet below the bottom of the hole, but if the soil is too stiff, the sensor may overrange or break.

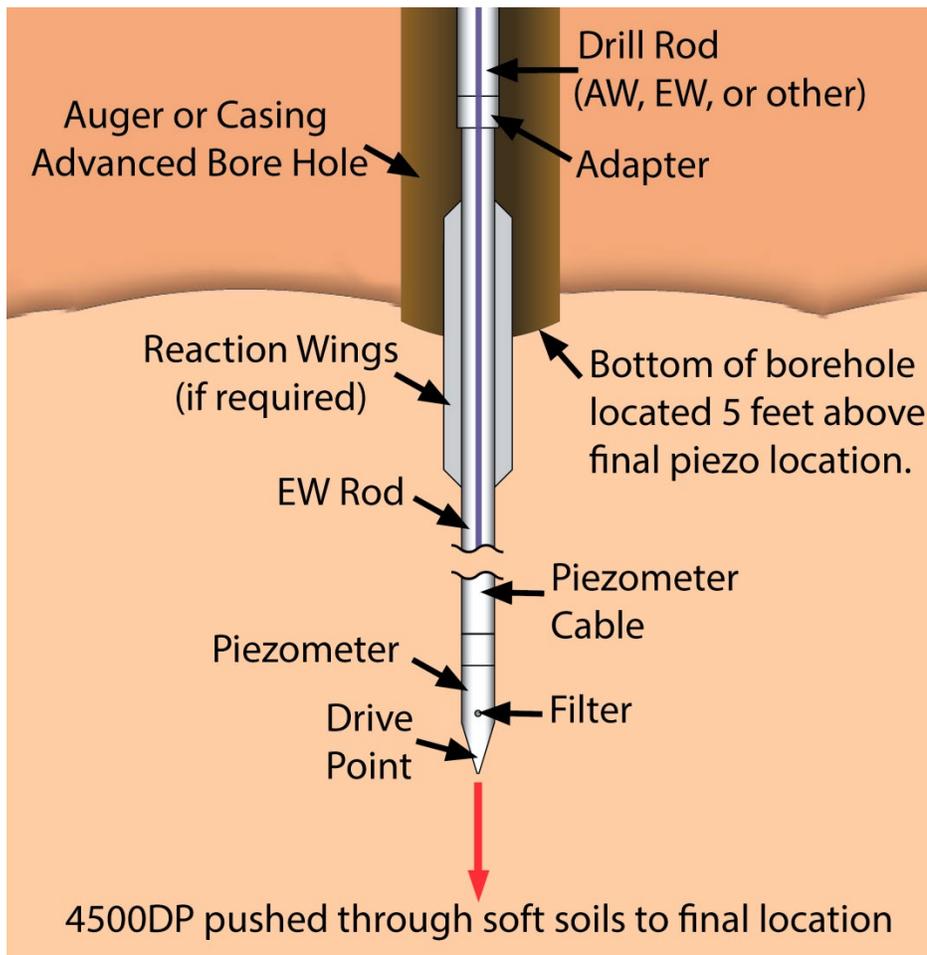


Figure 7 - Typical Soft Soils Installation

The piezometer should be connected to a readout box and monitored during the installation process. If pressures reach or exceed the calibrated range, the installation should be stopped. Allow the pressure to dissipate before continuing.

The drill rod can be left in place or it can be removed. If it is to be removed, a special five-foot section of EW (or AW) rod with reaction wings and a left-hand thread are attached directly to the piezometer tip. This section is detached from the rest of the drill string by rotating the string clockwise. The reaction wings prevent the EW rod from turning. A LH/RH adapter is available from GEOKON. This adapter is retrieved along with the drill string.

## 4.5 Model 4500H and Model 4500HH Transducer

When connecting the Model 4500H transducer to external fittings, the fitting should be tightened into the 1/4-18 NPT female port by placing a wrench on the flats provided on the transducer housing. Avoid tightening onto a closed system; the process of tightening the fittings could overrange and permanently damage the transducer. If in doubt, attach the gauge leads to a readout box and take readings while tightening. For an easier and more positive connection to the transducer, PTFE (plumber's) tape on the threads is recommended. The maximum pressure for the 4500H is 3 MPa.

GEOKON's Model 4500HH is designed for high-pressure environments. This model uses a 7/16-20, 60-degree, female, medium pressure fitting. The maximum pressure for the 4500HH is 75 MPa.

**CAUTION! All high-pressure sensors are potentially dangerous. Care must be taken not to overrange them beyond their calibrated range. Sensors are tested to 150% of their range to provide a factor of safety.**

## 4.6 Splicing and Junction Boxes

Because the vibrating wire output signal is a frequency rather than a current or voltage, variations in cable resistance have little effect on gauge readings. Therefore, splicing of cables has no effect, and in some cases may in fact be beneficial. For example, if multiple piezometers are installed in a borehole, and the distance from the borehole to the terminal box or datalogger is great, a splice (or junction box) could be made to connect the individual cables to a single multi-conductor cable (see Figure 8). This multi-conductor cable would then be run to the readout station. For these types of installations, it is recommended that the piezometer be supplied with enough cable to reach the installation depth, plus extra cable to pass through drilling equipment (rods, casing, etc.).

Cable used for making splices should be a high-quality twisted pair type, with 100% shielding and an integral shield drain wire. **When splicing, it is very important that the shield drain wires be spliced together.** Splice kits recommended by GEOKON incorporate casts that are placed around the splice and then filled with epoxy to waterproof the connections. When properly made, this type of splice is equal or superior to the cable in strength and electrical properties. Contact GEOKON for splicing materials and additional cable splicing instructions.

Junction boxes and terminal boxes are available from GEOKON for all types of applications. In addition, portable readouts and dataloggers are also available. Contact GEOKON for specific application information.



Figure 8 - Typical Multi-Piezometer Installation

#### 4.7 Lightning Protection

In exposed locations, it is vital that the piezometer be protected against lightning strikes. A tripolar plasma surge arrester, which protects against voltage spikes across the input leads, is built into the body of the piezometer (see Figure 1).

Additional lightning protection measures available include:

- Placing a Lightning Arrester Board (LAB-3), in line with the cable, as close as possible to the installed piezometer (see Figure 9). These units utilize surge arrestors and transzorb to further protect the piezometer. This is the recommended method of lightning protection.
- Terminal boxes available from GEOKON can be ordered with lightning protection built in. The terminal board used to make the gauge connections has provision for the installation of plasma surge arrestors. Lightning Arrester Boards (LAB-3) can also be incorporated into the terminal box. The terminal box must be connected to an earth ground for these levels of protection to be effective.

- If the instruments will be read manually with a portable readout (no terminal box), a simple way to help protect against lightning damage is to connect the cable leads to a good earth ground when not in use. This will help shunt transients induced in the cable to ground, away from the instrument.

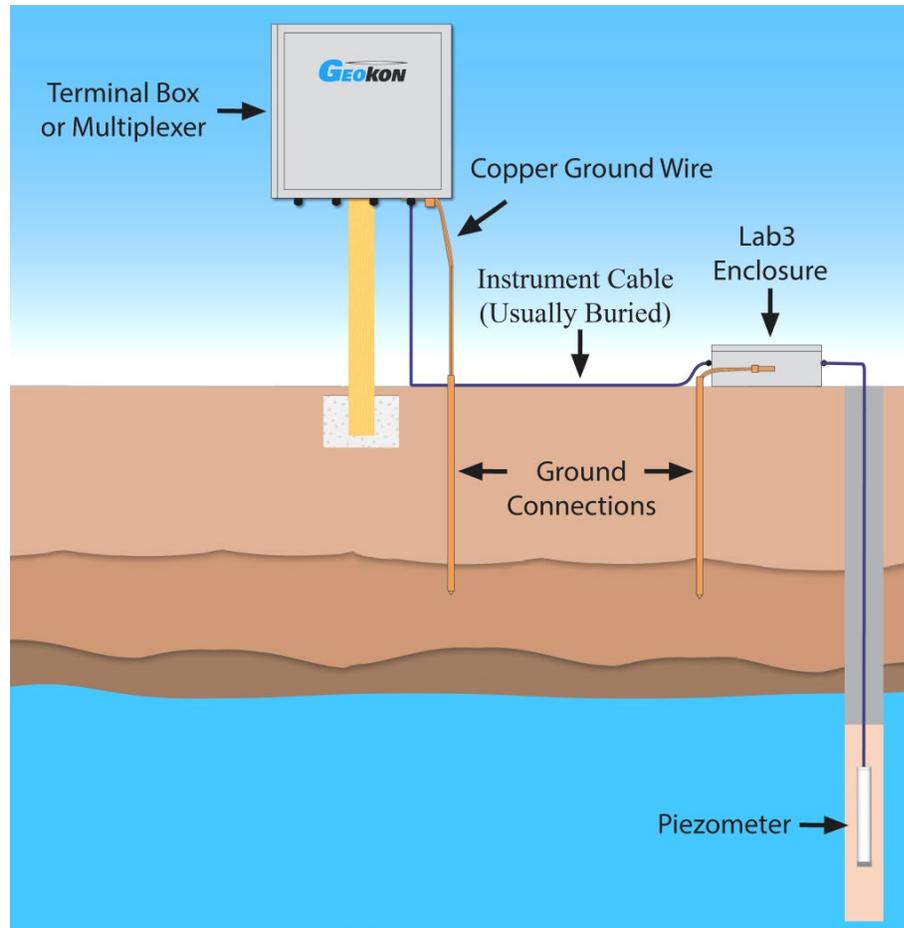


Figure 9 - Recommended Lightning Protection Scheme

#### 4.8 Freezing Protection

If the water around the piezometer freezes this could damage the piezometer diaphragm causing a large shift in the zero-pressure reading. If the piezometer is to be used in locations that are subject to freezing, GEOKON can provide a special modification that will protect the piezometer diaphragm.

## **5. TAKING READINGS**

### **5.1 GK-404 Readout Box**

The Model GK-404 Vibrating Wire Readout is a portable, low-power, handheld unit that can run for more than 20 hours continuously on two AA batteries. It is designed for the readout of all GEOKON vibrating wire gauges and transducers; and is capable of displaying the reading in digits, frequency (Hz), period ( $\mu\text{s}$ ), or microstrain ( $\mu\epsilon$ ). The GK-404 also displays the temperature of the transducer (embedded thermistor) with a resolution of 0.1 °C.

#### **5.1.1 Operating the GK-404**

Before use, attach the flying leads to the GK-404 by aligning the red circle on the silver Lemo connector of the flying leads with the red line on the top of the GK-404 (Figure 10). Insert the Lemo connector into the GK-404 until it locks into place.



**Figure 10 - Lemo Connector to GK-404**

Connect each of the clips on the leads to the matching colors of the sensor conductors, with blue representing the shield (bare).

To turn the GK-404 on, press the “ON/OFF” button on the front panel of the unit. The initial startup screen will be displayed. After approximately one second, the GK-404 will start taking readings and display them based on the settings of the POS and MODE buttons.

The unit display (from left to right) is as follows:

- The current Position: Set by the **POS** button. Displayed as a letter A through F.
- The current Reading: Set by the **MODE** button. Displayed as a numeric value followed by the unit of measure.
- Temperature reading of the attached gauge in degrees Celsius.

Use the **POS** button to select position **B** and the **MODE** button to select **Dg** (digits). (Other functions can be selected as described in the GK-404 Manual.)

The GK-404 will continue to take measurements and display readings until the unit is turned off, either manually, or if enabled, by the Auto-Off timer.

If no reading displays or the reading is unstable, see Section 7 for troubleshooting. For further information, consult the GK-404 manual.

## 5.2 GK-405 Readout Box

The GK-405 Vibrating Wire Readout is made up of two components: The Readout Unit, consisting of a Windows Mobile handheld PC running the GK-405 Vibrating Wire Readout Application; and the GK-405 Remote Module, which is housed in a weatherproof enclosure and connects to the vibrating wire gauge to be measured. The two components communicate wirelessly. The Readout Unit can operate from the cradle of the Remote Module, or, if more convenient, can be removed and operated up to 20 meters from the Remote Module.

### 5.2.1 Connecting Sensors with a 10-pin Bulkhead

Align the grooves on the sensor connector (male), with the appropriate connector on the readout (female connector labeled sensor or load cell). Push the connector into place, and then twist the outer ring of the male connector until it locks into place.

### 5.2.2 Connecting Sensors with Bare Leads

Attach the GK-403-2 flying leads to the bare leads of a GEOKON vibrating wire sensor by connecting each of the clips on the leads to the matching colors of the sensor conductors, with blue representing the shield (bare).

### 5.2.3 Operating the GK-405

Press the button labeled “POWER ON”. A blue light will begin blinking, signifying that the Remote Module is waiting to connect to the handheld unit.

Launch the GK-405 VWRA program on the handheld PC by tapping on “Start”, then “Programs”, then the GK-405 VWRA icon. After a few seconds, the blue light on the Remote Module should stop flashing and remain lit, indicating that the remote module has successfully paired with the handheld PC. The Live Readings Window will be displayed on the handheld PC. Figure 11 shows a typical vibrating wire piezometer output in digits and thermistor output in degrees Celsius.

If the no reading displays or the reading is unstable, see Section 7 for troubleshooting suggestions. For further information, consult the GK-405 Instruction Manual.

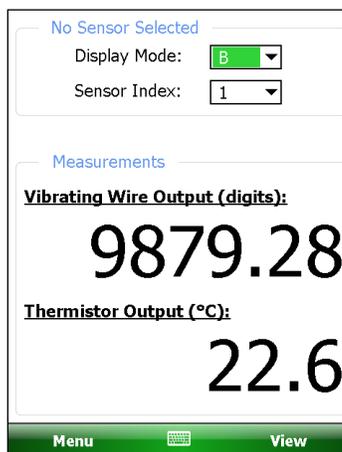


Figure 11 - Live Readings – Raw Readings

### 5.3 GK-403 Readout Box (Obsolete Model)

The GK-403 can store gauge readings as well as apply calibration factors to convert readings to engineering units. The following instructions explain taking gauge measurements using Modes “B” and “F”.

#### 5.3.1 Connecting Sensors with a 10-pin Bulkhead

Align the grooves on the sensor connector (male), with the appropriate connector on the readout (female connector labeled sensor or load cell). Push the connector into place, and then twist the outer ring of the male connector until it locks into place.

#### 5.3.2 Connecting Sensors with Bare Leads

Attach the GK-403-2 flying leads to the bare leads of a GEOKON vibrating wire sensor by connecting each of the clips on the leads to the matching colors of the sensor conductors, with blue representing the shield (bare).

#### 5.3.3 Operating the GK-403

- 1) Turn the display selector to position “B” (or “F”).
- 2) Turn the unit on.
- 3) The readout will display the vibrating wire output in digits (see Equation 1 in Section 6.) The last digit may change one or two digits while reading.
- 4) The thermistor reading will be displayed above the gauge reading in degrees centigrade.
- 5) Press the “Store” button to record the value displayed.

If the no reading displays or the reading is unstable, see Section 7 for troubleshooting suggestions. The unit will automatically turn off after approximately two minutes to conserve power. Consult the GK-403 Instruction Manual for additional information.

### 5.4 Measuring Temperatures

All vibrating wire piezometers are equipped with a thermistor, which gives a varying resistance output as the temperature changes. The white and green leads of the instrument cable are normally connected to the internal thermistor. GEOKON readout boxes will read the thermistor and display the temperature in degrees C. (High temperature versions use a different thermistor, which must be read using an ohmmeter.)

#### To read temperatures using an ohmmeter:

- 1) Connect an ohmmeter to the green and white thermistor leads coming from the piezometer. Since the resistance changes with temperature are large, the effect of cable resistance is usually insignificant. For long cables a correction can be applied, equal to approximately  $14.7 \Omega$  per one thousand feet ( $48.5\Omega$  per km). Multiply this factor by two to account for both directions.
- 2) Look up the temperature for the measured resistance in Appendix B, Table 7. For high temperature models, use Appendix C, Table 8.

## **6. DATA REDUCTION**

### **6.1 Pressure Calculation**

The digits displayed by the GEOKON Models GK-403, GK-404, and GK-405 Readout Boxes on channel B are based on the equation:

$$\text{Digits} = \left( \frac{1}{\text{Period}} \right)^2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ or } \text{Digits} = \frac{\text{Hz}^2}{1000}$$

**Equation 1 - Digits Calculation**

Note that in the above equation, the period is in seconds; GEOKON readout boxes display microseconds. For example, a piezometer reading of 8000 digits corresponds to a period of 354  $\mu\text{s}$  and a frequency of 2828 Hz.

Digits are directly proportional to the applied pressure, as can be seen by the following equation:

$$\text{Pressure} =$$

$$(\text{Current Reading} - \text{Initial Zero Reading}) \times \text{Linear Calibration Factor}$$

Or

$$P = (R_1 - R_0) \times G$$

**Equation 2 - Convert Digits to Pressure**

Since the linearity of most sensors is within  $\pm 0.2\%$  F.S., the errors associated with nonlinearity are of minor consequence. However, for those situations requiring the highest degree of accuracy, it may be desirable to use a second order polynomial to get a better fit of the data points. The use of a second order polynomial is explained in Appendix D.

The instrument's calibration report (a typical example of which is shown in Appendix E), shows the data from which the linear gauge factor and the second order polynomial coefficients are derived. Columns on the right show the size of the error incurred by assuming a linear coefficient and the improvement that can be expected by going to a second order polynomial. In many cases, the difference is minor. The calibration report gives the pressure in certain engineering units. These can be converted to other engineering units using the multiplication factors shown in Table 2.

From → To ↓	psi	"H <sub>2</sub> O	'H <sub>2</sub> O	mm H <sub>2</sub> O	m H <sub>2</sub> O	"HG	mm HG	atm	mbar	bar	kPa	MPa
psi	1	.036127	.43275	.0014223	1.4223	.49116	.019337	14.696	.014503	14.5039	.14503	145.03
"H <sub>2</sub> O	27.730	1	12	.039372	39.372	13.596	.53525	406.78	.40147	401.47	4.0147	4016.1
'H <sub>2</sub> O	2.3108	.08333	1	.003281	3.281	1.133	.044604	33.8983	.033456	33.4558	.3346	334.6
mm H <sub>2</sub> O	704.32	25.399	304.788	1	1000	345.32	13.595	10332	10.197	10197	101.97	101970
m H <sub>2</sub> O	.70432	.025399	.304788	.001	1	.34532	.013595	10.332	.010197	10.197	.10197	101.97
"HG	2.036	.073552	.882624	.0028959	2.8959	1	.03937	29.920	.029529	29.529	.2953	295.3
mm HG	51.706	1.8683	22.4196	.073558	73.558	25.4	1	760	.75008	750.08	7.5008	7500.8
atm	.06805	.002458	.029499	.0000968	.0968	.03342	.001315	1	.000986	.98692	.009869	9.869
mbar	68.947	2.4908	29.8896	.098068	98.068	33.863	1.3332	1013.2	1	1000	10	10000
bar	.068947	.002490	.029889	.0000981	.098068	.033863	.001333	1.0132	.001	1	.01	10
kPa	6.8947	.24908	2.98896	.0098068	9.8068	3.3863	.13332	101.320	.1	100	1	1000
MPa	.006895	.000249	.002988	.0000098	.009807	.003386	.000133	.101320	.0001	.1	.001	1

Table 2 - Engineering Units Multiplication Factors

(Note: Due to changes in specific gravity with temperature, the factors for mercury and water in the above table are approximate.)

## 6.2 Temperature Correction

The materials used in the construction of GEOKON's vibrating wire piezometers have been carefully selected to minimize thermal effects; however, most units still have a slight temperature coefficient. Consult the calibration report supplied with the instrument to obtain the coefficient for the individual piezometer.

Since piezometers are normally installed in a tranquil and constant temperature environment, corrections are normally not required. If this is not the case for the selected installation, corrections can be made using the internal thermistor for temperature measurement. See Section 5.4 for instructions regarding obtaining the piezometer temperature.

The temperature correction equation is as follows:

Temperature Correction =

(Current Temperature - Initial Zero Temperature) × Thermal Factor

Or

$$P_T = (T_1 - T_0) \times K$$

Equation 3 - Temperature Correction

The calculated correction would then be added to the pressure calculated using Equation 2. If the engineering units were converted, remember to apply the same conversion to the calculated temperature correction.

For example, if the initial temperature was 22 °C, and the current temperature is 15 °C, and the thermal factor (K on the calibration report) is +0.1319 kPa per °C rise. The temperature correction is  $+0.1319(15-22) = -0.92$  kPa. Refer to the calibration report provided with the instrument for the thermal factor.

### 6.3 Barometric Correction (required only on unvented transducers)

Since the standard piezometer is hermetically sealed, it responds to changes in atmospheric pressure. Corrections may be necessary, particularly for the sensitive, low-pressure models. For example, a barometric pressure change from 29 to 31 inches of mercury would result in approximately one PSI of error (or  $\approx 2.3$  feet if monitoring water level in a well). It is advisable to read and record the barometric pressure every time the piezometer is read. Having an onsite barometer also allows the monitoring of barometric changes to judge what extent they may be affecting the reading. A separate pressure transducer (piezometer), kept out of the water, may also be used for this purpose.

The barometric correction equation is as follows:

$$\text{Barometric Correction} = (\text{Current Barometer} - \text{Initial Zero Barometer}) \times \text{Conversion Factor}$$

Or

$$P_B = (S_1 - S_0) \times F$$

**Equation 4 - Barometric Correction**

The calculated barometric correction is subtracted from the pressure calculated using Equation 2. If the engineering units were converted, remember to apply the same conversion to the calculated barometric correction.

Barometric pressure is usually recorded in inches of mercury. The conversion factor for inches of mercury to PSI is 0.491, and from inches of mercury to kPa is 3.386. Table 2 in Section 6.1 lists other common conversion factors.

The user should be cautioned that this correction scheme assumes ideal conditions. In reality, conditions are not always ideal. For example, if the well is sealed, barometric effects at the piezometer level may be minimal or attenuated from the actual changes at the surface. Thus, errors may result from applying a correction that is not required. In these cases, GEOKON recommends independently recording the barometric pressure changes and correlating them with the observed pressure changes to arrive at a correction factor.

An alternative to making barometric corrections is to use piezometers that are vented to the atmosphere (see Section 6.4). However, vented piezometers only make sense if the piezo is in an open well or standpipe and the user is only interested in the water level. If the piezo is buried it is not certain that the full effect of the barometric change will be felt immediately at the instrument and is more likely to be attenuated and delayed, in which case a vented piezo would automatically apply a correction that is too large and too soon.

Equation 5 shows the pressure calculation with temperature and barometric correction applied.

$$P_{\text{corrected}} = (R_1 - R_0)G + (T_1 - T_0)K - (S_1 - S_0)F$$

**Equation 5 - Corrected Pressure Calculation**

#### 6.4 Model 4500SV, Vented Piezometers



**Figure 12 - Vented Piezometers**

The Model 4500SV vented piezometer is designed to eliminate the effect of barometric pressure changes on water level measurements in wells, reservoirs, and boreholes that are connected directly to the atmosphere. They are not to be used where pore water pressures are being measured.

The space inside the transducer is not hermetically sealed and evacuated, as it is in the standard 4500 model piezometer, instead, it is connected via a tube (integral within the cable) to the atmosphere. A chamber containing desiccant capsules is attached to the outer end of this tube to prevent moisture from entering the transducer cavity. Vented piezometers require more maintenance than unvented types, since there is always the danger that moisture may find its way inside the transducer and ruin it.

Installation of the piezometer is accomplished by lowering it to the desired level in the well, reservoir, or borehole. The piezometer can be placed inside a canvas bag filled with sand, if desired.

The desiccant capsule chamber needs to be positioned in some kind of housing to keep it dry. GEOKON can provide suitable housings on request.

To keep the desiccant fresh during storage and transportation, the end of the desiccant chamber is closed off by means of a seal screw before being shipped from the factory. **THIS SEAL SCREW MUST BE REMOVED BEFORE THE PIEZOMETER IS PUT INTO SERVICE!**

The desiccant capsules are blue when fresh. They will gradually turn pink as they absorb moisture. When they have turned light pink in color, they should be replaced. Contact GEOKON for replacement capsules.

## **6.5 Environmental Factors**

Since the purpose of the piezometer installation is to monitor site conditions, factors that can affect these conditions should always be observed and recorded. Seemingly minor affects may have a real influence on the behavior of the structure being monitored and may give an early indication of potential problems. Some of these factors include, but are not limited to, blasting, rainfall, tidal levels, traffic, temperature and barometric changes, weather conditions, changes in personnel, nearby construction activities, excavation and fill level sequences, seasonal changes, etc.

## **7. TROUBLESHOOTING**

Maintenance and troubleshooting of vibrating wire piezometers is confined to periodic checks of cable connections and maintenance of terminals. The transducers themselves are sealed and are not user serviceable. **Gauges should not be opened in the field.**

Should difficulties arise, consult the following list of problems and possible solutions. For additional troubleshooting and support, contact GEOKON.

### ***Symptom: Thermistor resistance is too high***

- ✓ It is likely that there is an open circuit. Check all connections, terminals, and plugs. If a cut is located in the cable, splice according to instructions in Section 4.6.

### ***Symptom: Thermistor resistance is too low***

- ✓ It is likely that there is a short. Check all connections, terminals, and plugs. If a short is located in the cable, splice according to instructions in Section 4.6.
- ✓ Water may have penetrated the interior of the piezometer. There is no remedial action.

### ***Symptom: Piezometer reading unstable***

- ✓ Make sure the shield drain wire is connected to the blue clip on the flying leads. (Green for the GK-401.)
- ✓ Isolate the readout from the ground by placing it on a piece of wood or another insulator.
- ✓ Check for sources of nearby electrical noise such as motors, generators, antennas, or electrical cables. Move the piezometer cable away from these sources if possible. Contact the factory for available filtering and shielding equipment.
- ✓ The Piezometer may have been damaged by overranging or shock. Inspect the diaphragm and housing for damage.
- ✓ The body of the Piezometer may be shorted to the shield. Check the resistance between the shield drain wire and the Piezometer housing. If the resistance is very low, the gauge conductors may be shorted.

### ***Symptom: Piezometer fails to give a reading***

- ✓ Check the readout with another gauge to ensure it is functioning properly.
- ✓ The Piezometer may have been overranged or shocked. Inspect the diaphragm and housing for damage.
- ✓ Check the resistance of the cable by connecting an ohmmeter to the sensor leads. Table 3 shows the expected resistance for the various wire combinations; Table 4 is provided for the customer to fill in the actual resistance found. Cable resistance is approximately  $14.7\Omega$  per 1000 feet ( $48.5\Omega$  per km). Multiply this factor by two to account for both directions. If the resistance is very high or infinite, the cable is probably broken or cut. If the resistance is very low, the gauge conductors may be shorted. If a cut or a short is located in the cable, splice according to instructions in Section 4.6.

Vibrating Wire Sensor Lead Grid - <b>SAMPLE VALUES</b>					
	Red	Black	White	Green	Shield
Red					
Black	$\cong 180\Omega$				
White	infinite	infinite			
Green	infinite	infinite	$3000\Omega$ at 25°C		
Shield	infinite	infinite	infinite	infinite	

Table 3 - Sample Resistance

Vibrating Wire Sensor Lead Grid - <b>SENSOR NAME/## :</b>					
	Red	Black	White	Green	Shield
Red					
Black					
White					
Green					
Shield					

Enter the measured values in the empty (white) cells.

Table 4 - Resistance Work Sheet

## APPENDIX A. SPECIFICATIONS

### A.1 4500 Series Specifications

Model	4500S	4500AL <sup>1</sup>	4500AR	4500B	4500C	4500DP	4580
Available Ranges <sup>2</sup> (psi)	0-50 0-100 0-150 0-250 0-500 0-750 0-1000 0-1500 0-3000 0-5000 0-10000 0-15000	0-10 0-25		0-50 0-100 0-250	0-50 0-100 0-250	0-10 0-25 0-50 0-150 0-250 0-500 0-750 0-1000 0-1500 0-3000 0-5000 0-10000	0-1 0-5
Resolution	0.025% F.S.	0.025% F.S.	0.025% F.S.	0.025% F.S.	0.05% F.S.	0.025% F.S.	0.01% F.S.
Linearity <sup>3</sup>	< 0.5% F.S.						
Accuracy <sup>4</sup>	0.1% F.S.						
Ovrange	1.5 × Rated Pressure						
Thermal Coefficient	<0.025% F.S./°C	<0.1% F.S./°C	<0.05% F.S./°C	<0.025% F.S./°C	<0.05% F.S./°C	<0.025% F.S./°C	<0.025% F.S./°C
Temperature Range	-20 °C to + 80 °C						
Frequency Range	1400-3500 Hz						
OD	.75" 19.05 mm	1" 25.40 mm	.75" 19.05 mm	.687" 17.45 mm	.437" 11.10 mm	1.3" 33.3 mm	1.5" 38.10 mm
Length	5.25" 133 mm	5.25" 133 mm	10" 254 mm	5.25" 133 mm	6.5" 165 mm	7.36" 187 mm	6.5" 165 mm

Table 5 - Vibrating Wire Piezometer Specifications

Notes:

Accuracy of GEOKON test apparatus: 0.1%

Contact GEOKON for specific application information.

<sup>1</sup> Accuracy of test apparatus: 0.05%

<sup>2</sup> Other ranges available upon request.

<sup>3</sup> 0.1% F.S. linearity available upon request.

<sup>4</sup> Derived using second order polynomial.

### A.2 Thermistor

(See Appendix B also)

Range: -80 to +150 °C

Accuracy: ±0.5 °C

### A.3 Standard Piezometer Wiring

Pin	Function	Wire Color
A	Vibrating Wire Gauge +	Red
B	Vibrating Wire Gauge -	Black
C	Thermistor	White
D	Thermistor	Green
E	Cable Shield	Shield
F-K	Not Used	

Table 6 - Standard Piezometer Wiring

## APPENDIX B. THERMISTOR TEMPERATURE DERIVATION

Thermistor Type: YSI 44005, Dale #1C3001-B3, Alpha #13A3001-B3  
 Resistance to Temperature Equation:

$$T = \frac{1}{A+B(\ln R)+C(\ln R)^3} - 273.15 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}$$

Equation 6 - Resistance to Temperature

Where;

**T** = Temperature in °C.

**LnR** = Natural Log of Thermistor Resistance

**A** =  $1.4051 \times 10^{-3}$

**B** =  $2.369 \times 10^{-4}$

**C** =  $1.019 \times 10^{-7}$

Note: Coefficients calculated over the -50 to +150° C. span.

Ohms	Temp	Ohms	Temp	Ohms	Temp	Ohms	Temp	Ohms	Temp
201.1K	-50	16.60K	-10	2417	+30	525.4	+70	153.2	+110
187.3K	-49	15.72K	-9	2317	31	507.8	71	149.0	111
174.5K	-48	14.90K	-8	2221	32	490.9	72	145.0	112
162.7K	-47	14.12K	-7	2130	33	474.7	73	141.1	113
151.7K	-46	13.39K	-6	2042	34	459.0	74	137.2	114
141.6K	-45	12.70K	-5	1959	35	444.0	75	133.6	115
132.2K	-44	12.05K	-4	1880	36	429.5	76	130.0	116
123.5K	-43	11.44K	-3	1805	37	415.6	77	126.5	117
115.4K	-42	10.86K	-2	1733	38	402.2	78	123.2	118
107.9K	-41	10.31K	-1	1664	39	389.3	79	119.9	119
101.0K	-40	9796	0	1598	40	376.9	80	116.8	120
94.48K	-39	9310	+1	1535	41	364.9	81	113.8	121
88.46K	-38	8851	2	1475	42	353.4	82	110.8	122
82.87K	-37	8417	3	1418	43	342.2	83	107.9	123
77.66K	-36	8006	4	1363	44	331.5	84	105.2	124
72.81K	-35	7618	5	1310	45	321.2	85	102.5	125
68.30K	-34	7252	6	1260	46	311.3	86	99.9	126
64.09K	-33	6905	7	1212	47	301.7	87	97.3	127
60.17K	-32	6576	8	1167	48	292.4	88	94.9	128
56.51K	-31	6265	9	1123	49	283.5	89	92.5	129
53.10K	-30	5971	10	1081	50	274.9	90	90.2	130
49.91K	-29	5692	11	1040	51	266.6	91	87.9	131
46.94K	-28	5427	12	1002	52	258.6	92	85.7	132
44.16K	-27	5177	13	965.0	53	250.9	93	83.6	133
41.56K	-26	4939	14	929.6	54	243.4	94	81.6	134
39.13K	-25	4714	15	895.8	55	236.2	95	79.6	135
36.86K	-24	4500	16	863.3	56	229.3	96	77.6	136
34.73K	-23	4297	17	832.2	57	222.6	97	75.8	137
32.74K	-22	4105	18	802.3	58	216.1	98	73.9	138
30.87K	-21	3922	19	773.7	59	209.8	99	72.2	139
29.13K	-20	3748	20	746.3	60	203.8	100	70.4	140
27.49K	-19	3583	21	719.9	61	197.9	101	68.8	141
25.95K	-18	3426	22	694.7	62	192.2	102	67.1	142
24.51K	-17	3277	23	670.4	63	186.8	103	65.5	143
23.16K	-16	3135	24	647.1	64	181.5	104	64.0	144
21.89K	-15	<b>3000</b>	<b>25</b>	624.7	65	176.4	105	62.5	145
20.70K	-14	2872	26	603.3	66	171.4	106	61.1	146
19.58K	-13	2750	27	582.6	67	166.7	107	59.6	147
18.52K	-12	2633	28	562.8	68	162.0	108	58.3	148
17.53K	-11	2523	29	543.7	69	157.6	109	56.8	149
								55.6	150

Table 7 - Thermistor Resistance Versus Temperature

## APPENDIX C. HIGH TEMPERATURE THERMISTOR LINEARIZATION

Resistance to Temperature Equation for *US Sensor 103JL1A*:

$$T = \frac{1}{A+B(\ln R)+C(\ln R)^3+D(\ln R)^5} - 273.15 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}$$

**Equation 7 - High Temperature Resistance to Temperature**

Where;

T = Temperature in °C.

LnR = Natural Log of Thermistor Resistance.

A = 1.127670 × 10<sup>-3</sup>

B = 2.344442 × 10<sup>-4</sup>

C = 8.476921 × 10<sup>-8</sup>

D = 1.175122 × 10<sup>-11</sup>

Note: Coefficients optimized for a curve “J” Thermistor over the temperature range of 0°C to +250°C.

Ohms	Temp	Ohms	Temp	Ohms	Temp	Ohms	Temp	Ohms	Temp	Ohms	Temp	Ohms	Temp	Ohms	Temp
32,650	0	7,402	32	2,157	64	763.5	96	316.6	128	148.4	160	76.5	192	42.8	224
31,029	1	7,098	33	2,083	65	741.2	97	308.7	129	145.1	161	75.0	193	42.1	225
29,498	2	6,808	34	2,011	66	719.6	98	301.0	130	142.0	162	73.6	194	41.4	226
28,052	3	6,531	35	1,942	67	698.7	99	293.5	131	138.9	163	72.2	195	40.7	227
26,685	4	6,267	36	1,876	68	678.6	100	286.3	132	135.9	164	70.8	196	40.0	228
25,392	5	6,015	37	1,813	69	659.1	101	279.2	133	133.0	165	69.5	197	39.3	229
24,170	6	5,775	38	1,752	70	640.3	102	272.4	134	130.1	166	68.2	198	38.7	230
23,013	7	5,545	39	1,693	71	622.2	103	265.8	135	127.3	167	66.9	199	38.0	231
21,918	8	5,326	40	1,637	72	604.6	104	259.3	136	124.6	168	65.7	200	37.4	232
20,882	9	5,117	41	1,582	73	587.6	105	253.1	137	122.0	169	64.4	201	36.8	233
19,901	10	4,917	42	1,530	74	571.2	106	247.0	138	119.4	170	63.3	202	36.2	234
18,971	11	4,725	43	1,480	75	555.3	107	241.1	139	116.9	171	62.1	203	35.6	235
18,090	12	4,543	44	1,432	76	539.9	108	235.3	140	114.5	172	61.0	204	35.1	236
17,255	13	4,368	45	1,385	77	525.0	109	229.7	141	112.1	173	59.9	205	34.5	237
16,463	14	4,201	46	1,340	78	510.6	110	224.3	142	109.8	174	58.8	206	33.9	238
15,712	15	4,041	47	1,297	79	496.7	111	219.0	143	107.5	175	57.7	207	33.4	239
14,999	16	3,888	48	1,255	80	483.2	112	213.9	144	105.3	176	56.7	208	32.9	240
14,323	17	3,742	49	1,215	81	470.1	113	208.9	145	103.2	177	55.7	209	32.3	241
13,681	18	3,602	50	1,177	82	457.5	114	204.1	146	101.1	178	54.7	210	31.8	242
13,072	19	3,468	51	1,140	83	445.3	115	199.4	147	99.0	179	53.7	211	31.3	243
12,493	20	3,340	52	1,104	84	433.4	116	194.8	148	97.0	180	52.7	212	30.8	244
11,942	21	3,217	53	1,070	85	421.9	117	190.3	149	95.1	181	51.8	213	30.4	245
11,419	22	3,099	54	1,037	86	410.8	118	186.1	150	93.2	182	50.9	214	29.9	246
10,922	23	2,986	55	1,005	87	400.0	119	181.9	151	91.3	183	50.0	215	29.4	247
10,450	24	2,878	56	973.8	88	389.6	120	177.7	152	89.5	184	49.1	216	29.0	248
<b>10,000</b>	<b>25</b>	2,774	57	944.1	89	379.4	121	173.7	153	87.7	185	48.3	217	28.5	249
9,572	26	2,675	58	915.5	90	369.6	122	169.8	154	86.0	186	47.4	218	28.1	250
9,165	27	2,579	59	887.8	91	360.1	123	166.0	155	84.3	187	46.6	219		
8,777	28	2,488	60	861.2	92	350.9	124	162.3	156	82.7	188	45.8	220		
8,408	29	2,400	61	835.4	93	341.9	125	158.6	157	81.1	189	45.0	221		
8,057	30	2,316	62	810.6	94	333.2	126	155.1	158	79.5	190	44.3	222		
7,722	31	2,235	63	786.6	95	324.8	127	151.7	159	78.0	191	43.5	223		

**Table 8 - Thermistor Resistance versus Temperature for High Temperature Models**

## **APPENDIX D. IMPROVING THE ACCURACY OF THE CALCULATED PRESSURE**

Most vibrating wire pressure transducers are sufficiently linear ( $\pm 0.2\%$  F.S.) that the use of the linear calibration factor satisfies normal requirements. However, it should be noted that the accuracy of the calibration data, which is dictated by the accuracy of the calibration apparatus, is always  $\pm 0.1\%$  F.S.

This level of accuracy can be recaptured, even where the transducer is nonlinear, using a second order polynomial expression, which gives a better fit to the data than does a straight line.

The polynomial expression has the form:

$$\text{Pressure} = AR^2 + BR + C$$

**Equation 8 - Second Order Polynomial Expression**

Where;

R is the reading (digits channel B)

A, B, and C are coefficients

Appendix E shows a typical calibration report of a transducer that has fairly normal nonlinearity. The figure under the "Linearity (%F.S.)" column is

$$\frac{\text{Calculated Pressure}-\text{True Pressure}}{\text{Full Scale Pressure}} \times 100\% = \frac{G(R_1-R_0)-P}{\text{F.S.}} \times 100\%$$

**Equation 9 - Linearity Calculation**

Note: The linearity is calculated using the regression zero for  $R_0$  shown on the calibration report.

For example, when  $P = 420$  kPa,  $G(R_1 - R_0) = -0.1795(6749 - 9082)$ , gives a calculated pressure of 418.8 kPa. The error is 1.2 kPa equal to 122 mm of water.

Whereas the polynomial expression gives a calculated pressure of  $A(6749)^2 + B(6749) + 1595.7 = 420.02$  kPa and the actual error is only 0.02 kPa or two millimeters of water.

Note: If the polynomial equation is used it is important that the value of C be taken in the field following the procedures described in Section 3.2. The field value of C is calculated by inserting the initial field zero reading into the polynomial equation with the pressure, P, set to zero.

If the field zero reading is not available, the value of C can be calculated by using the zero-pressure reading on the calibration report. In the above example the value of C would be derived from the equation:  $0 = A(9074)^2 + B(9074)$  from which  $C = 1595.7$

It should be noted that where *changes* of water levels are being monitored it makes little difference whether the linear coefficient or the polynomial expression is used.

**APPENDIX E. TYPICAL CALIBRATION REPORT**



48 Spencer St. Lebanon, NH 03766 USA

### Vibrating Wire Pressure Transducer Calibration Report

Model Number: 4500INS-2 MPa      Date of Calibration: August 18, 2017  
 Serial Number: 1726650      Temperature: 22.60 °C  
 Calibration Instruction: VW Pressure Transducers      Barometric Pressure: 990.1 mbar  
 Technician: *Kathy Rogers*

Applied Pressure (MPa)	Gage Reading 1st Cycle	Gage Reading 2nd Cycle	Average Gage Reading	Calculated Pressure (Linear)	Error Linear (%FS)	Calculated Pressure (Polynomial)	Error Polynomial (%FS)
0.0	8894	8894	8894	0.004	0.19	0.000	0.00
0.4	8158	8158	8158	0.399	-0.04	0.400	-0.01
0.8	7417	7418	7418	0.797	-0.14	0.800	0.00
1.2	6673	6673	6673	1.197	-0.14	1.200	0.00
1.6	5924	5925	5925	1.599	-0.03	1.600	0.01
2.0	5172	5173	5173	2.004	0.18	2.000	-0.01

(MPa) Linear Gage Factor (G): -0.0005374 (MPa/ digit)

Polynomial Gage factors:      A: -1.957E-09      B: -0.0005098      C: \_\_\_\_\_

Thermal Factor (K): 0.0002449 (MPa/ °C)

Calculate C by setting P=0 and R<sub>1</sub> = initial field zero reading into the polynomial equation

---

(psi) Linear Gage Factor (G): -0.07794 (psi/ digit)

Polynomial Gage Factors:      A: -2.838E-07      B: -0.07395      C: \_\_\_\_\_

Thermal Factor (K): 0.03552 (psi/ °C)

Calculate C by setting P=0 and R<sub>1</sub> = initial field zero reading into the polynomial equation

---

Calculated Pressures:      Linear,  $P = G(R_1 - R_0) + K(T_1 - T_0) - (S_1 - S_0)^*$

Polynomial,  $P = AR_1^2 + BR_1 + C + K(T_1 - T_0) - (S_1 - S_0)^*$

\*Barometric pressures expressed in MPa or psi. Barometric compensation is not required with vented transducers.

---

Factory Zero Reading: 8897      Temperature: 22.7 °C      Barometer: 995.5 mbar

---

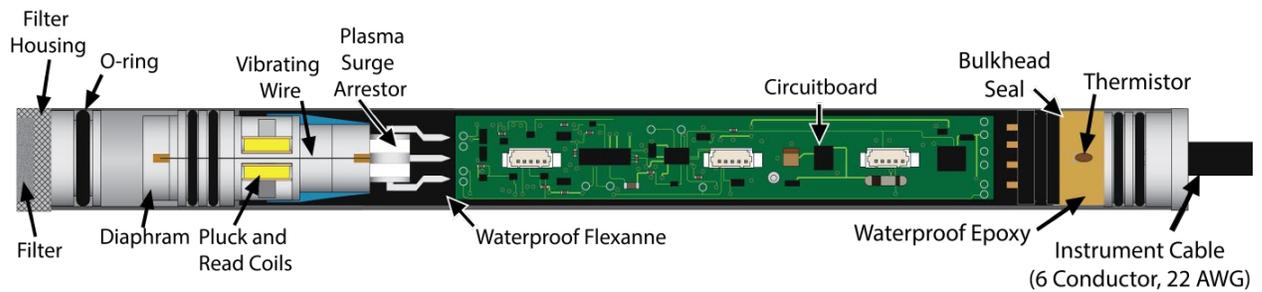
The above instrument was found to be in tolerance in all operating ranges.  
 The above named instrument has been calibrated by comparison with standards traceable to the NIST, in compliance with ANSI Z540-1.

---

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**Figure 13 - Typical Calibration Report**

## **APPENDIX F. MODEL 4500AR PIEZOMETER**



**Figure 14 - 4500AR Piezometer**

The Model 4500AR Piezometer is designed to be used with readout systems that can read frequency but do not have the capability to “pluck” the VW gauge. The sensor has built-in electronics that cause the gauge wire to vibrate continuously at its resonant frequency. The output from the sensor is a five-volt DC square wave at this frequency.

A DC input voltage in the range of 6 to 24 volts is required to operate the gauge. The current consumption is approximately 21 mA at 12VDC. The gauge output is independent of the input voltage.

Multiple sensors powered simultaneously can be read at quite fast rates (up to five sensors per second) and dynamic measurements on a single sensor can be made up to approximately 20Hz.

The gauge is installed in the field in the same way that the Model 4500 standard piezometer is installed (see Section 3 and Section 4).

4500AR Piezometer Wiring is shown in Table 9. The three pair cable is wired in pairs, with each pair comprising one colored and one black lead.

<b>Wire Color</b>	<b>Function</b>
Red	+6-24 VDC Power
Red's Black	Ground
White	Output
White's Black	Output Ground
Green	Thermistor +
Green's Black	Thermistor -
Bare	Shield

**Table 9 - 4500AR Wiring Chart**

Upon powerup the gauge will immediately start to “ring” at the resonant frequency and will continue to ring until the power is removed. Continuous operation will have no effect on the gauge life.

Note: The sensor comprises two transducers: the VW pressure sensor, and a thermistor for measuring temperature. The signal from the VW transducer is a high-level frequency and it will interfere with the thermistor output if left powered during the period that the thermistor is being read. If the temperature reading is important, the power to the pressure sensor should be switched off while the thermistor reading is taken.

## **APPENDIX G. PIEZOMETER PRESSURE AND WATER LEVEL**

Frequently, when using a dip meter to check water levels in an open well, it happens that the water level, computed from a piezometer reading taken at the bottom of the well, does not agree with the water level measured directly by the dip meter. This will happen when the specific gravity of the water is not 1 gm/cc, the water is brackish or muddy, or both. It will also occur when there is a flow of water up or down the borehole. In addition, if the piezometer is removed to make room for the dip meter, the volume of the piezometer and cable displaces an equal volume of water, which can cause changes of the water level in a small diameter well.