

## Water Quality Monitoring

Implementation of the Project's water monitoring program continued this quarter. Much of the emphasis has been on two program components that focus on safeguarding community water supplies:

- Pre-usage surveys, for the purpose of establishing a baseline that will indicate early on if the Project is having any detrimental impact on local water supplies.
- Monitoring water quantity and quality during construction, when withdrawals are being made by the Project.

Environmental monitors survey local community water supply points prior to the commencement of construction activities and map the points that fall within one kilometer of a proposed Project water withdrawal point. A sample of these community water supply points are then monitored during the actual withdrawal period.

Monitoring results for this quarter show that the Project has not been having any adverse impacts on the water supplies of local communities. The most intensive monitoring takes place in the oilfield area in southern Chad, where Project water withdrawals are most concentrated. The measured level of groundwater in community wells was consistent with the gradual decline in groundwater levels that takes place each year during the last three months of the dry season.

The Project's water monitoring program has again confirmed the longstanding fecal coliform bacterial contamination of the water in community wells in the oilfield area. This type of contamination was detected prior to the beginning of construction and was reported by the Project in 1995 as part of the data gathering effort for the Environmental Assessment.



Project workers receive constant reminders about the need to protect local water resources. This sign, for example, cautions against washing cars and trucks in streams.