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Les défis actuels des eaux souterraines

Alain Dassargues
Em. Prof. Hydrogeology and Environmental Geology, Urban and Environmental Engineering, Liège University, Belgium

E-mail: *Alain.Dassargues@uliege.be*

Les eaux souterraines sont présentées et expliquées avec de nombreux schémas illustrant les définitions hydrogéologiques, la présence, les réserves et les ressources en eaux souterraines. La notion de bilan hydrologique est abordée. Les avantages et désavantages des eaux souterraines sont listés ainsi que les principales menaces sur la qualité des eaux souterraines sont expliquées.
Le caractère renouvelable de l'eau douce ne peut être évalué qu'à l'échelle locale voire régionale. Il ne faut pas confondre 'consommation' et 'utilisation' de l'eau à partir de la production ou des prélèvements d'eau. Les défis scientifiques consistent à mesurer et modéliser les aquifères et les processus d'écoulement et de transports au sein de ceux-ci.
En exemple, les potentialités de la géothermie de faible température à circuit ouvert, et impliquant des études hydrogéologiques, sont décrites sur base de quelques exemples tirés des travaux récents de l'équipe de l'orateur.

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