1st Quarter 2007 – Construction of the Test Well

In January and February 2007, the MRCSP team worked with a crew to drill the test well for the research project at FirstEnergy’s R.E. Burger Electric Generating Plant. The snapshots below show some of the stages of that process. The first step is to prepare the site where the well will be drilled. These pictures show the location for the well as the area is being excavated, graded and prepared for the drilling operations.

The well is contained in several layers of metal casing to ensure that groundwater at the surface is protected from injection taking place at the bottom of the well, nearly 8,400-feet below the surface. The pictures below show the process of setting the conductor casing - the first and largest diameter casing in the well. In the following pictures you see the casing pipes (1) and casing rig (2). In the bottom two pictures, casing pipes are being lifted (3) to the rig for insertion in the ground (4).
Once the site is prepared, the crew sets up the drilling rig. These pictures show the crew bringing the drilling rig onto the site and hoisting it into place.

This is a picture of the assembled drilling rig – taken on a sunnier day.
The following three pictures show members of the drilling crew fitting pipe onto the drilling apparatus and drilling the deep test well.

These are some of the drill bits used in drilling the deep well.