

# Reclamation Manual

## Directives and Standards

### **TEMPORARY RELEASE**

(Expires 08/31/2017)

<b>Subject:</b>	Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program
<b>Purpose:</b>	This Directive and Standard (D&S) establishes Bureau of Reclamation requirements and assigns responsibility for compliance with Federal UIC program requirements found in Part C of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) (Pub. L. 93-523, as amended; 42 U.S.C. 300f <i>et seq.</i> ). Benefits of this D&S include assigning responsibility for meeting UIC well management requirements and enhancing aquifer protection.
<b>Authority:</b>	Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); SDWA; Clean Water Act (CWA); Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Sub-Chapter D, Part 144 (40 CFR 144); Environmental Compliance Memorandum 15-2, Department of Interior Guidance on Class V Underground Injection Control Wells (Class V UIC Wells)
<b>Approving Official:</b>	Director, Policy and Administration (POLICY)
<b>Contact:</b>	Environmental Compliance Division, 84-53000

1. **Introduction.** Management of underground injection wells is required by 40 CFR Part 144 which defines Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) UIC program requirements. The Reclamation UIC program purpose is to meet these requirements and protect underground sources of drinking water. UIC program requirements include Class V UIC Well identification, and the tracking, reporting, permitting, and management of a Class V UIC Well inventory.
2. **Applicability.** This D&S applies to all managers of Reclamation land and facilities.
3. **Definitions.**
  - A. **Approved State UIC Program.** A UIC program administered by the State or Indian Tribe that has been approved by EPA according to SDWA sections 1422 and/or 1425 (40 CFR 144.3).
  - B. **Cesspool.** A “drywell” that receives untreated sanitary waste containing human excreta, and which sometimes has an open bottom and/or perforated sides (40 CFR 144.3).
  - C. **Class V Underground Injection Control Well(s) or Class V UIC Well(s).** Well(s) not included in Class I, II, III, IV, or VI. Specific types of Class V injection wells

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including aquifer recharge wells, non-residential septic system wells, leach fields, and brine injection wells. These, and other examples of Class V injection wells, are described in 40 CFR 144.81.

- D. **Fluid.** Any material or substance which flows or moves whether in a semisolid, liquid, sludge, gas, or any other form or state.
- E. **Injection Well.** A “well” into which “fluids” are being disposed of at the “point of injection.”
- F. **Point of Injection.** The last accessible sampling point prior to waste fluids being released into the subsurface environment through a Class V injection well. For example, the point of injection of a Class V septic system might be the distribution box or septic tank--the last accessible sampling point before the waste fluids drain into the underlying soils or leach field. For a dry well, it is likely to be the well bore itself.
- G. **Prohibited Wells.** Also known as “banned” wells, this term applies to two types of Class V UIC Well, “large-capacity cesspool” and “motor vehicle waste disposal well” (MVWDW). Installation or construction of a new large-capacity cesspool or new MVWDW is prohibited as of April 2000. Use of existing large-capacity cesspools was phased out as of April 2005.
- (1) **Large-Capacity Cesspool.** Residential and non-residential cesspools designed to receive raw sewage from 20 or more persons per day. Check with the applicable well permitting authority for more information.
  - (2) **Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Well or MVWDW.** A shallow disposal system with the purpose of receiving and injecting fluids from vehicle repair or maintenance activities. Typical MVWDW are floor drains that collect from vehicle service area, including wash rack drains, and that connect to a septic system (e.g., leach field), or drywell. All underground systems that receive motor vehicle waste or runoff are considered to be a MVWDW.
- H. **Underground Injection Control Program Director or UIC Program Director.** The EPA Regional Administrator, the State UIC program director, the Tribal UIC program director, or an authorized representative of whoever of these has UIC program primacy. In some circumstances, EPA retains UIC program authority to take certain actions even when there is an approved State or Tribal UIC program. In such cases, the term “UIC program director” means the Regional Administrator and not the State or Tribal director.

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- I. **Well.** A bored, drilled, dug, or driven shaft whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension; or an improved sinkhole; or a subsurface fluid distribution system such as a leach field.
4. **Responsibilities.**
- A. **POLICY Environmental Compliance Division (ECD) Manager.** The POLICY ECD Manager is responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements of this D&S.
- B. **POLICY Environmental Compliance Coordinator (ECC).** The POLICY ECC is responsible for:
- (1) Coordinating annual Reclamation UIC inventory and data updates with the regions.
  - (2) Ensuring Reclamation UIC inventory data is certified by the region annually as current complete and accurate.
  - (3) Ensuring that the closures of prohibited wells on Reclamation land are properly documented. (See Paragraph 5.B.)
  - (4) Maintaining Reclamation UIC inventory data, region certifications, and Class V UIC Well closure documentation on file. All POLICY UIC documentation shall be maintained on file (hard-copy or electronic) for a minimum of 10 years as record retention schedule ENV-9.00, Environmental Compliance.
- C. **Regional Director.** The regional director is responsible for:
- (1) identifying a regional ECC;
  - (2) ensuring regional compliance with the requirements of this D&S;
  - (3) certifying annually to the Director, POLICY, in a timely manner that region UIC inventory data are current, complete, and accurate; and
  - (4) certifying any prohibited well closure completion to the Director, POLICY, in a timely manor.
- D. **Regional ECC.** The regional ECC is responsible for:
- (1) Acting as the regional point of contact for tracking and management of UIC inventory and data in accordance with 40 CFR 144.26, Inventory Requirements.

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- (2) Reporting region Class V UIC Well inventory and data to the appropriate UIC program director. All Class V UIC Wells on Reclamation land must be reported to the UIC program director within 90 calendar days of discovery.
  - (3) Ensuring that all Reclamation prohibited large-capacity cesspools must have a closure plan, approved by the UIC program director and in place within 180 days of well discovery. Large-capacity cesspools are prohibited. Existing large-capacity cesspools must be removed. (See Paragraph 5.A.)
  - (4) Ensuring that all in use Reclamation MVWDW are permitted. MVWDW may only be operated if permitted by rule or permitted by the applicable UIC program director. To remain operational, documentation for all MVWDW wells must include either a request for permit, submitted to the UIC program director within the last 90 days, or written approval or permit for use from the UIC program director. Unpermitted or unapproved MVWDW are prohibited from use.
  - (5) Ensuring any environmental disposal liability (EDL) associated with prohibited well closure(s) is entered into the Department's Environmental Management Information System (EMIS) in a timely manner. Closure activities for prohibited wells that result in identification of a "future outflow of resources" constitute an EDL, and well site information shall be entered and tracked in the Department EMIS database.
  - (6) Ensuring that prohibited well closures on Reclamation land are properly documented in a timely manner. (See Paragraph 5.B.)
  - (7) Providing all well closure documentation to the POLICY ECC within 90 days of certification signature. (See Paragraph 5.B.(2).)
5. **Prohibited Wells.** To remain operational, a MVWDW must be permitted, or have a letter on file from the UIC program director stating the permit is not needed, or have a letter on file, not more 12 months old, to the UIC program director requesting a permit.
- A. **Closure.** Closure of prohibited wells must be in accordance applicable UIC program director requirements and all well closures must be documented.
  - B. **Well Closure Documentation.** Documentation for closure of prohibited wells shall include the following.
    - (1) **Proof of Closure.** Examples of proof of closure include before and after pictures, or receipts for closure supplies (e.g., cement) or for work done (e.g., holding tank installation).

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- (2) **Certification.** Certification shall consist of written memoranda signed by the regional director to POLICY that closure of a well has been completed.
- (3) **Transmittal.** Transmittal documentation shall consist of a written memoranda providing proof of closure to the state or EPA UIC program director.

## RECLAMATION MANUAL TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Release No. \_\_\_\_\_

Ensure all employees needing this information are provided a copy of this release.

### Reclamation Manual Release Number and Subject

### Summary of Changes

NOTE: This Reclamation Manual release applies to all Reclamation employees. When an exclusive bargaining unit exists, changes to this release may be subject to the provisions of collective bargaining agreements.

### Filing instructions

Remove Sheets

Insert Sheets

All Reclamation Manual releases are available at <http://www.usbr.gov/recman/>

Filed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_