

Reclamation Manual

Directives and Standards

Subject:	Underground Injection Control Program
Purpose:	This Reclamation Manual (RM) Directive and Standard (D&S) establishes the Bureau of Reclamation requirements and assigns responsibility for compliance with United States. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Underground Injection Control (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 compliance with UIC well management requirements, reduced environmental risks and enhanced protection of aquifers and underground sources of drinking water (USDW).
Authority:	SDWA; UIC Program, Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Subchapter D, Parts 144-149 (40 CFR §144 -149).
Approving Official:	Director, Policy & Programs (P&P)
Contact:	Environmental Compliance Division (84-53000)

1. Introduction.

- A. **Requirements.** The SDWA compelled the EPA to protect the quality of underground sources of drinking water. 40 CFR §144 defines EPA's UIC Program requirements to implement this mandate. It establishes that no injection below ground level shall be authorized if it results in the movement of fluid containing any contaminant into underground sources of drinking water. The rule categorizes injection wells into six classes. UIC wells on Reclamation land are predominantly in the Class V Injection Well (Class V well) category and are primarily/mostly used for sanitary waste disposal. Class V wells are permitted on Reclamation land to inject non-hazardous liquids either into or above an underground source of drinking water. EPA has the authority to delegate the UIC Program to state regulatory agencies. State regulations can be more stringent than or supplement EPA requirements. Class V well owners and operators must adhere to prevailing state and Federal regulations within their jurisdictions.
- B. **Well Owners & Operators.** 40 CFR §144 requires that all owners or operators of Class V wells: 1) be authorized by permit or rule by the EPA Program Administrator or by a delegated and approved state Program Director (UIC Program Director); submit basic well inventory information to the UIC Program Director; and close unauthorized Class V wells to prevent contamination of underground sources of drinking water, if so directed by the UIC Program Director. Class V wells on Reclamation land are government owned and operated; contractor owned and operated; or government owned but operated by managing partners. Irrespective of who is the owner or operator, it is the responsibility of both the Director, P&P and regional directors to maintain an inventory of all Class V wells under their jurisdiction. Additionally, to protect Reclamation from potential liability, regions must have a program in place to

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check that all Class V well operations and reporting procedures comply with applicable Federal and state regulations. This is primarily achieved through periodic inspections and collaboration with owners and operators to promptly remedy any regulatory deficiencies.

2. **Applicability.** This D&S applies to all Reclamation personnel involved with the administration, management, and/or operation of Class V wells on Reclamation land. Provisions contained in this D&S apply to all managing partner agreements, operation and maintenance contracts, and contracts with third party permittees.
3. **UIC Program Elements.** The Hazardous Materials Management Coordinator in the Environmental Compliance Division within P&P (P&P Coordinator) implements the program through development of policy, directives and standards, guidance, and procedures; and providing advice, oversight and training. Generally, area offices are responsible for implementing each of the below program elements and for collecting and validating the data before providing it to the Regional Hazardous Materials Coordinators (Regional Coordinators). Regional Coordinators facilitate program implementation, coordination, inspection (compliance audits) and reporting to the P&P Coordinator. The P&P Coordinator maintains the Reclamation-wide Class V well inventory. The following outlines the major UIC Program elements:

A. UIC Inventory.

- (1) As established in 40 CFR §144.26, all owners or operators of Class V wells shall submit well inventory information to the applicable UIC Program Director; reporting by either the well owner or operator is permissible. Area offices will identify those entities who own or operate a UIC well on Reclamation land and provide notice to those entities at least once every 3 years of their responsibility to comply with 40 CFR §144 and other applicable state or local regulations (such notice will require the operator to provide area offices with copies between the operator and UIC Program of any notice or other communication related to UIC wells). Area offices and regional directors shall either report the inventory to the UIC Program Director or work with non-Reclamation owners and operators to adhere to this requirement. Failure to submit well inventory information voids authorization by rule. If this occurs, area offices shall cease or ensure cessation of well injection pending submittal of inventory information and subsequent UIC Program Director approval.
- (2) Area offices shall maintain an inventory of Class V wells present on land under their jurisdiction to include at a minimum: 1) facility name, 2) name and address of legal contact, 3) ownership of the facility, 4) nature and type of injection well, and 5) operating status (permitted, authorized by rule, or closed out). The inventory resides on Reclamation's Environmental Regulatory Compliance Data Class V Well Inventory SharePoint (ERCD SharePoint). Area offices shall

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ensure that the inventory is updated in a timely fashion for new wells discovered and any operational changes to existing wells. Known corrective actions taken at a well shall be documented in the ERCD SharePoint.

- (3) The P&P Coordinator shall ensure that a Reclamation-wide inventory for all Class V wells on Reclamation land is maintained and certified through the following process:
 - (a) Annually, the P&P Coordinator shall issue a data call requesting that regional directors certify by a set date that their Class V Well Inventory on the ERCD SharePoint is current, complete, and accurate to the best of their knowledge.
 - (b) By a date set by the regional office, area offices shall notify their Regional Coordinator that their well inventory information on the ERCD SharePoint is current, complete, and accurate to the best of their knowledge for all Class V wells in their jurisdictional area.
 - (c) Once reviewed and verified by the Regional Coordinator, the regional director shall certify to the P&P Coordinator by memorandum that regional Class V UIC Well Inventory data is current, complete, and accurate to the best of their knowledge as of the reporting date.

B. UIC Well Authorization, Management, and Records.

- (1) All Class V wells owned and operated on Reclamation land must be authorized by rule or permitted by the UIC Program Director (40 CFR §144.83). As required in 40 CFR §144.25(a), the Program Director requires the owner or operator of a well authorized by rule to obtain an individual or area UIC permit. Area offices shall ensure that all Class V wells on Reclamation land are properly authorized by rule or permitted and are operated in accordance with rule or permit provisions.
- (2) The presence of large-capacity cesspools on Reclamation land are not allowed. Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells (MVWDWs) operational or under construction by April 5, 2000, must be closed or permitted. New or converted MVWDWs are prohibited. Area offices shall ensure well owner and operator compliance with the *Additional Requirements for Large-Capacity Cesspools and Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells* promulgated in 40 CFR §144.88. All Large-capacity cesspools were required to be closed by April 5, 2005.
- (3) Reclamation offices shall conduct oversight and monitoring procedures of non-Reclamation owned and operated wells as deemed necessary to validate compliant well operations on Reclamation land, including requesting inventory information via letter, ongoing Class V well monitoring, and on-site inspections as described in Paragraph 3.E.

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- (4) All Class V well inventory, cessation, closure, and inspection records shall be maintained in accordance with RM D&S, *Information Management* (RCD 05-01) and the current version of the *Department of the Interior [Environmental and Disposal Liabilities Handbook V4](#)* (EDL Handbook). Per 40 CFR §280.74, copies of all records shall be maintained for 3 years by the facility managers, who will also provide records to the area office coordinator or regional coordinator upon request.
- C. **UIC Well Injection Cessation and Well Closure.** Area offices shall ensure that all Reclamation owned and operated Class V wells adhere to Federal or state regulations applicable to cessation and closure of Class V wells, and request the below information from non-Reclamation Class V wells owners and operators on Reclamation land to meet the below requirements:
- (1) Area offices must cease or ensure cessation of injection into a Class V well within the time frame specified as required by 40 CFR §144.26, 40 CFR §144.27, 40 CFR §144.12, 40 CFR §144.31.
- (2) Area offices shall close or ensure closure of Class V wells on Reclamation land as directed by the UIC Program Director and in compliance with any Department of the Interior requirements. In general, well closures must meet the prohibition of the fluid movement standard in 40 CFR §144.12 and provisions for the removal and management of any materials from or adjacent to a well established in 40 CFR §144.82(b). Area office shall compile and maintain proof of closure documentation on file. Additionally, the area office will update its Class V Well Inventory on the ERCD SharePoint for the well closure action and notify the Regional Coordinator of the inventory revision.
- D. **UIC Well Inspections.** As part of Reclamation's Environmental Compliance Audit Program (RM D&S, [Environmental Compliance Audit Program](#) (ENV 15-03), area offices shall conduct onsite inspections to periodically check on Class V wells comply with applicable federal or state UIC Program rules and regulations. Any newly discovered Class V wells will be added to the area office inventory on the ERCD SharePoint along with any notes applicable to well authorization and operations. Area offices shall coordinate with well operators to ensure Class V well audit findings and corrective actions are addressed.
- E. **Environmental Liabilities.** If newly identified UIC wells are discovered that include potential or actual liabilities, see EDL Handbook and Temporary Reclamation Manual Release, *Environmental Disposal Liability (EDL)* (ENV TRMR-68).
4. **Definitions.**
- A. **Class V Underground Injection Control Well(s) (UIC Well(s)).** Well(s) not included in Class I, II, III, IV, or VI. A Class V well is the most common injection well

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on Reclamation land. Specific types of Class V injection wells include aquifer recharge wells, non-residential septic system wells, leach fields, shop drains, and most brine injection wells. These and other examples of Class V injection wells are described in 40 CFR §144.81.

- B. **Injection Well.** A well into which fluids are being disposed of at the point of injection, which is the last accessible sampling point prior to waste fluids being released into the subsurface environment through an injection well. For example, the point of injection of a 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.
 - C. **Large-Capacity Cesspool.** Large-capacity cesspools including multiple dwelling, community, or regional cesspools, pit toilets that are used by 20 or more people per day, or other devices that receives sanitary wastes, containing human excreta, which has an open bottom and sometimes perforated sides. The UIC Program requirements do not apply to single family residential cesspools nor to non-residential cesspools which receive solely sanitary waste and have the capacity to serve fewer than 20 persons a day.
 - D. **Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Well (MVWDW).** A UIC well that receives or has received fluids from vehicular repair or maintenance activities, such as an auto body repair shop, automotive repair shop, new and used car dealership, specialty repair shop, or any facility that does any vehicular repair work. Fluids disposed in these wells may contain organic and inorganic chemicals in concentrations that exceed the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) established by the primary drinking water regulations (see 40 CFR §141). These fluids also may include waste petroleum products and may contain contaminants, such as heavy metals and volatile organic compounds, which pose risks to human health.
 - E. **UIC Program Director.** The EPA Regional Administrator, the State UIC Program Director, or the Tribal UIC Program Director. In some circumstances, EPA retains UIC Program authority to take certain actions even when there is an approved state or tribal UIC Program.
5. **Review Period.** The originating office will review this release every 4 years.

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: _____