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EPA

Best Management Practices For Protecting Ground Water

Automotive Service Stations Using Shallow Waste Disposal Wells

(Class V Well BMP Fact Sheet Number 1)

EPA recognizes that certain industrial waste disposal practices using drainage wells may pose unacceptable risks to Underground Sources of Drinking Water. These operations allow the discharge of various wastes to a drainage system neither designed for nor capable of treating them. Accordingly, BMPs for Service Station Disposal Wells focus on well closure and alternative disposal methods. We have also included BMPs for waste minimization to help facilities reduce waste disposal costs, regardless of the disposal method they use. In addition local, county, and State regulations may prohibit use of these wells. Note: these practices are recommendations only. For more information, contact the person named below.

Well Closure (if so directed)

- Submit closure plan if so directed; temporarily plug well with cement or plumbers plug until plan is approved
- After sampling well contents, clean pipes and drains leading to well if so directed, using, for example, plastic pigs
- Remove liquid and sludge from well if so directed; dispose of in compliance with federal, State, and local laws
- Fill well voids with clean inert material; seal pipes and well sides with cement or concrete; plug and cap well opening; seal cap and floor
- Remove and dispose of visibly contaminated soil in compliance with federal, State, and local laws
- After removing visibly contaminated soil, collect and analyze soil and fluid samples; send results to Chief of the appropriate State or Region Section
- For bay drain(s) connected to a septic system, continue to use septic system (after closing bay drains) only if allowed and only for domestic waste

Alternative Disposal

- If floor drain(s) are required, connect drain(s)/disposal system(s) to sanitary sewer if allowed by appropriate federal, State and local regulations
- If floor drain(s) are required, connect drain(s) to holding tank; periodically pump out tank and have licensed hauler transport wastes to an approved treatment or disposal facility
- Use waste exchange services to reuse and recycle as much waste as practical
- Apply for a permit to continue injecting if so directed

Waste Minimization

- Provide employee training as part of an overall commitment to pollution prevention
- Provide incentives for developing new pollution prevention ideas
- Clearly label, inventory, and monitor the use and storage of all raw materials and wastes
- Handle raw materials and wastes carefully to minimize spills and contamination
- Install collection devices, such as drip trays and splash guards, to contain spilled wastes
- Keep floors clean; clean up spills immediately to prevent waste accumulation
- Collect spilled materials manually, (for example, with a wet vac) before using non-reusable absorbent materials
- Use biodegradable cleaning agents and safe alternatives to hazardous materials
- Recycle wastes when possible
- Use recirculating solvent sinks to reduce waste volume
- Collect rain or snow melt using wet vac or mop and dispose of properly
- Minimize use of chlorinated solvents

Note: These BMPs are adapted from a May 1991 EPA report titled, "Class V Well BMP Guidance - Phase I and Phase II," and have been modified in response to comments by EPA Regions. For a copy of the EPA report, please contact the Underground Injection Control Branch of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, U.S. EPA.

For further information contact: