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EPA

Best Management Practices For Protecting Ground Water

Facilities Using Storm Water Drainage Wells, Improved Sinkholes, and Industrial Drainage Wells

(Class V Well BMP Fact Sheet Number 4)

EPA recognizes that drainage well disposal practices may pose a threat of contamination to Underground Sources of Drinking Water. These wells, while necessary, may need additional attention to minimize their impact on ground water resources. For more information, contact the person named below.

Prevention

- Install and operate new wells and/or continue use of improved sinkholes only in areas where there is an adequate confinement barrier or filtration medium between wells and USDWs, where other BMPs can be applied to reduce contaminant loading, and where construction of storm sewers is impractical
- Connect drains to sewer where possible (drains connected to Industrial Drainage Wells should not be connected to storm water-only systems)
- Maintain an inventory of all wells for cleaning and comply with federal, State, and local well registration requirements
- Sweep streets and parking lots regularly
- Use alternative de-icers in place of salt
- Apply for a permit to continue injecting if so directed

Structural Controls

- Install, as appropriate:
  - fabric filters in wells
  - beehive grates over wells
  - oil/grease traps at tops of wells
  - permanent silt checks (clean periodically to prevent sediment from entering wells)
  - gravel berms around wells
  - straw bale filter traps around wells

- Plant vegetation, build aggregate-lined or sodded ditches in runoff containment areas, and build swales and sedimentation basins around wells where appropriate to filter out contaminants before they reach wells

- Install or require temporary erosion controls at construction sites near wells

Note: EPA has prepared BMP Fact Sheets for Industrial Disposal Wells. Many of the BMPs on these Fact Sheets may be applicable to facilities operating Industrial Disposal Wells.

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: