

For information contact:

**Region 1**

Ground Water Management Section  
John F. Kennedy Federal Building  
One Congress Street  
Boston, MA 02203 (617)565-3615

**Region 2**

Underground Injection Control Section  
26 Federal Plaza, Room 853  
New York, NY 10278 (212)264-1547

**Region 3**

Underground Injection Control Section  
841 Chestnut Building (3WM43)  
Philadelphia, PA 1910 (215)597-9928

**Region 4**

Underground Injection Control Section  
(GWP-3)  
345 Courtland Street N.E.  
Atlanta, GA 30365 (404)347-3379

**Region 5**

Underground Injection Control Section  
(WD-17J)  
77 W. Jackson Street  
Chicago, IL 60604 (312)886-1492

**Region 6**

Underground Injection Control Program  
(6W-SE)  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733 (214)655-7160 or  
(214)655-7165

**Region 7**

Underground Injection Control Section  
726 Minnesota Avenue  
Kansas City, KS 66101 (913)551-7369

**Region 8**

UIC Program/Enforcement Section  
(8WM-DW)  
999 18th Street - Suite 500  
Denver, CO 80202-2466 (303)293-1413

**Region 9**

Source Water Protection Section (W-6-2)  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105 (415)744-1838

**Region 10**

Ground Water Section (WD-133)  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101 (206)553-1369



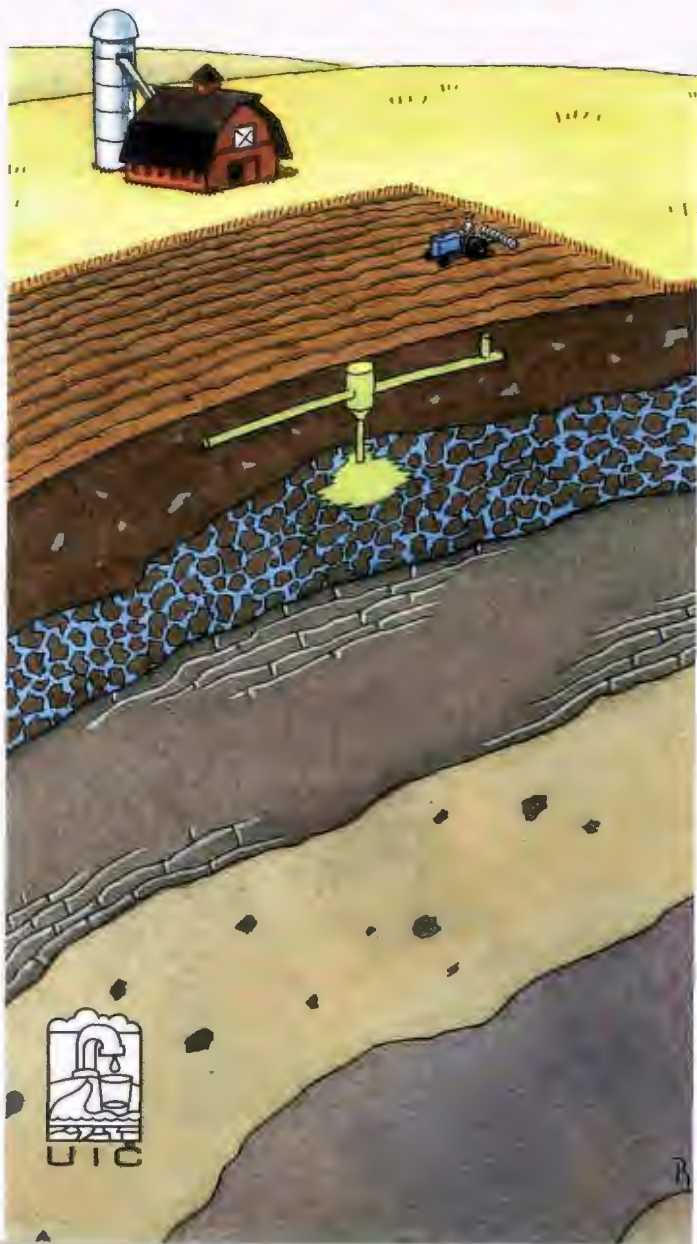
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## Class V Injection Wells and Your Drinking Water



**M**ore than 89 percent of U.S. public water supply systems draw some or all of their drinking water from sources found underground in rock, sand, and gravel. Ground water also feeds rivers, lakes, and streams used for drinking water. Ground water has no respect for state boundaries. It continually moves, sometimes recharging surface waters hundreds of miles away from where it started.

Most ground water used for drinking is located near the earth's surface and is easily contaminated. Of major concern is the potential contamination of underground sources of drinking water (USDW) by any of the hundreds of thousands of injection wells nationwide. Injection wells dispose of approximately 11 percent of the nation's fluid waste.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working in partnership with state and local governments to prevent injection wells from contaminating your drinking water resources. You can help by learning about EPA's Underground Injection Control (UIC) program so that you can identify injection wells in your community that may contaminate your drinking water.

Basically, injection wells are man-made or improved "holes" in the ground, which are deeper than their widest surface dimension and are used to discharge or dispose of fluids underground. When properly sited, constructed, and operated, injection wells can be an effective and environmentally safe means of fluid waste disposal. There are many different types of injection wells, but they are all similar in their basic function.

## **What is A Class V Well?**

Most Class V wells are "low tech" holes in the ground, although a few are technologically advanced wastewater disposal systems used by industry. Generally, Class V wells are shallow and rely on gravity to drain or "inject" liquid waste into the ground. Examples of Class V wells include dry wells that collect surface water runoff and industrial, commercial, and utility disposal wells. A Class V well's potential to endanger a nearby ground water resource depends largely on the type and/or quantity of waste fluid it injects.

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**Under the UIC program, EPA and the states regulate more than 400,000 injection wells. Class V wells comprise 50 percent of the injection wells in the U.S.**

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Class V wells may be found almost anywhere people are. But in general, they are located in rural and/or unsewered areas where people depend on ground water for their drinking water. Their simple construction provides little or no protection against possible ground water contamination, so it is important to control what goes into them. Shallow injection of wastewater from industrial and manufacturing processes can cause significant problems. For example, industrial chemicals such as solvents may be washed down sinks, or service station wastes such as oil may be flushed into service bay floor drains. These wastes can endanger drinking water sources, especially if the disposal well is a septic system. Chemicals disposed of in a septic system designed to treat sanitary waste can cause the system to malfunction and contaminate ground water.

## How Does the EPA Protect Drinking Water from Class V Wells?

Class V wells are regulated by federal, state, and local officials. EPA requires all Class V owners and operators to submit inventory information. In addition EPA regulations prohibit Class V operators from endangering underground drinking water sources.



## How Do I Know if I Have a Class V Well?

If your workplace generates waste fluids and is not connected to a municipal sewer, find out where your liquid wastes go. If they go into an on-site septic system, dry well, or drainage hole, you have a Class V disposal well which may endanger your drinking water supply.



## What Do I Do if I Have a Class V Well?

If you believe you have a Class V well, contact your local health officials or the EPA Regional Office covering your state. Even if you do not have a Class V well, you can contact these authorities to learn more about their programs, or to report any well that you think may be causing problems.

If you have a Class V well, make sure you comply with inventory requirements. If you do not report your Class V well to the appropriate UIC program director, or if your well endangers drinking water sources, you may be fined.

**EPA**  
United States  
Environmental Protection Agency  
(4602)  
Washington, DC 20460

Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use  
\$300

## How Can You Get More Information?

For more information regarding underground injection at the U.S. EPA Regional level, contact your EPA regional office.

