

BEFORE EXAMINER STOGNER

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

OCD EXHIBIT NO. 1

I. - SECONDARY OR OTHER ENHANCED RECOVERY, PRESSURE MAINTENANCE 10693
SALT WATER DISPOSAL, AND ~~UNDERGROUND STORAGE~~

RULE 701. - INJECTION OF FLUIDS INTO RESERVOIRS

(as of 3-1-91)

A. Permit for Injection Required

(1) The injection of gas, liquefied petroleum gas, air, water, or any other medium into any reservoir for the purpose of maintaining reservoir pressure or for the purpose of secondary or other enhanced recovery or for storage or the injection of water into any formation for the purpose of water disposal shall be permitted only by order of the Division after notice and hearing, unless otherwise provided herein.

B. Method of Making Application

(1) Application for authority for the injection of gas, liquefied petroleum gas, air, water or any other medium into any formation for any reason, including but not necessarily limited to the establishment of or the expansion of water flood projects, enhanced recovery projects, pressure maintenance projects, and salt water disposal, shall be by submittal of Division Form C-108 complete with all attachments.

(2) The Applicant shall furnish, by certified or registered mail, a copy of the application to the owner of the surface of the land on which each injection or disposal well is to be located and to each leasehold operator within one-half mile of the well.

C. Administrative Approval

(1) If the application is for administrative approval rather than for a hearing, it must also be accompanied by a copy of a legal publication published by the applicant in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the proposed injection well is located. (The details required in such legal notice are listed on Side 2 of Form C-108).

(2) No application for administrative approval may be approved until 15 days following receipt by the Division of Form C-108 complete with all attachments including evidence of mailing as required under paragraph B (2) above and proof of publication as required by paragraph C (1) above.

(3) If no objection is received within said 15-day period, and a hearing is not otherwise required, the application may be approved administratively.

D. Hearings

(1) If a written objection to any application for administrative approval of an injection well is filed within 15 days after receipt of a complete application, or if a hearing is required by these rules or deemed advisable by the Division Director, the application shall be set for hearing and notice thereof given by the Division.

E. Salt Water Disposal Wells

(1) The Division Director shall have authority to grant an exception to the requirements of Rule 701-A for water disposal wells only, without hearing, when the waters to be disposed of are mineralized to such a degree as to be unfit for domestic, stock, irrigation, or other general use, and when said waters are to be disposed of into a formation older than Triassic (Lea County only) and provided no objections are received pursuant to Rule 701-C.

(2) Disposal will not be permitted into zones containing waters having total dissolved solids concentrations of 10,000 mg/l or less except after notice and hearing, provided however, that the Division may establish exempted aquifers for such zones wherein such injection may be approved administratively.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (2) above, the Division Director may authorize disposal into such zones if the waters to be disposed of are of higher quality than the native water in the disposal zone.

F. Pressure Maintenance Projects

(1) Pressure maintenance projects are defined as those projects in which fluids are injected into the producing horizon in an effort to build up and/or maintain the reservoir pressure in an area which has not reached the advanced or "stripper" state of depletion.

(2) All applications for establishment of pressure maintenance projects shall be set for hearing. The project area and the allowable formula for any pressure maintenance project shall be fixed by the Division on an individual basis after notice and hearing.

(3) Pressure maintenance projects may be expanded and additional wells placed on injection only upon authority from the Division after notice and hearing or by administrative approval.

(4) The Division Director shall have authority to grant an exception to the hearing requirements of Rule 701-A for the conversion to injection of additional wells within a project area provided that any such well is necessary to develop or maintain efficient pressure maintenance within such project and provided that no objections are received pursuant to Rule 701-C.

G. Water Flood Projects

(1) Water flood projects are defined as those projects in which water is injected into a producing horizon in sufficient quantities and under sufficient pressure to stimulate the production of oil from other wells in the area, and shall be limited to those areas in which the wells have reached an advanced state of depletion and are regarded as what is commonly referred to as "stripper" wells.

(2) All applications for establishment of water flood projects shall be set for hearing.

(3) The project area of a water flood project shall comprise the proration units owned or operated by a given operator upon which injection wells are located plus all proration units owned or operated by the same operator which directly or diagonally offset the injection tracts and have producing wells completed on them in the same formation; provided however, that additional proration units not directly nor diagonally offsetting an injection tract may be included in the project area if, after notice and hearing, it has been established that such additional units have wells completed thereon which have experienced a substantial response to water injection.

(4) The allowable assigned to wells in a water flood project area shall be equal to the ability of the wells to produce and shall not be subject to the depth bracket allowable for the pool nor to the market demand percentage factor.

(5) Nothing herein contained shall be construed as prohibiting the assignment of special allowables to wells in buffer zones after notice and hearing. Special allowables may also be assigned in the limited instances where it is established at a hearing that it is imperative for the protection of correlative rights to do so.

(6) Water flood projects may be expanded and additional wells placed on injection only upon authority from the Division after notice and hearing or by administrative approval.

(7) The Division Director shall have authority to grant an exception to the hearing requirements of Rule 701-A for conversion to injection of additional wells provided that any such well is necessary to develop or maintain thorough and efficient water flood injection for any authorized project and provided that no objections are received pursuant to Rule 701-C.

mation required by subpart B of 40 CFR part 262.

New injection wells means an "injection well" which began injection after a UIC program for the State applicable to the well is approved or prescribed.

Owner or operator means the owner or operator of any "facility or activity" subject to regulation under the UIC program.

Permit means an authorization, license, or equivalent control document issued by EPA or an approved State to implement the requirements of this part, parts 145, 146 and 124. "Permit" includes an area permit (§ 144.33) and an emergency permit (§ 144.34). Permit does not include UIC authorization by rule (§ 144.21), or any permit which has not yet been the subject of final agency action, such as a "draft permit."

Person means an individual, association, partnership, corporation, municipality, State, Federal, or Tribal agency, or an agency or employee thereof.

Plugging means the act or process of stopping the flow of water, oil or gas into or out of a formation through a borehole or well penetrating that formation.

Project means a group of wells in a single operation.

Radioactive Waste means any waste which contains radioactive material in concentrations which exceed those listed in 10 CFR part 20, appendix B, table II, column 2.

RCRA means the Solid Waste Disposal Act as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (Pub. L. 94-580, as amended by Pub. L. 95-609, Pub. L. 96-510, 42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*).

Regional Administrator means the Regional Administrator of the appropriate Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency or the authorized representative of the Regional Administrator.

Schedule of compliance means a schedule of remedial measures included in a "permit," including an enforceable sequence of interim requirements (for example, actions, operations, or milestone events) leading to compli-

ance with the "appropriate Act and regulations."

SDWA means the Safe Drinking Water Act (Pub. L. 93-523, as amended; 42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*).

Site means the land or water area where any "facility or activity" is physically located or conducted, including adjacent land used in connection with the facility or activity.

State means any of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or an Indian Tribe treated as a State.

State Director means the chief administrative officer of any State, interstate, or Tribal agency operating an "approved program," or the delegated representative of the State director. If the responsibility is divided among two or more States, interstate, or Tribal agencies, "State Director" means the chief administrative officer of the State, interstate, or Tribal agency authorized to perform the particular procedure or function to which reference is made.

State/EPA agreement means an agreement between the Regional Administrator and the State which coordinates EPA and State activities, responsibilities and programs.

Stratum (plural strata) means a single sedimentary bed or layer, regardless of thickness, that consists of generally the same kind of rock material.

Total dissolved solids means the total dissolved (filterable) solids as determined by use of the method specified in 40 CFR part 136.

UIC means the Underground Injection Control program under Part C of the Safe Drinking Water Act, including an "approved State program."

Underground injection means a "well injection."

Underground source of drinking water (USDW) means an aquifer or its portion:

- (a)(1) Which supplies any public water system; or
- (2) Which contains a sufficient quantity of ground water to supply a public water system; and

- (i) Currently supplies drinking water for human consumption; or
- (ii) Contains fewer than 10,000 mg/l total dissolved solids; and
- (b) Which is not an exempted aquifer.

USDW means "underground source of drinking water."

Well means a bored, drilled or driven shaft, or a dug hole, whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension.

Well injection means the subsurface emplacement of "fluids" through a bored, drilled, or driven "well;" or through a dug well, where the depth of the dug well is greater than the largest surface dimension.

[48 FR 14189, Apr. 1, 1983, as amended at 49 FR 45305, Nov. 15, 1984; 52 FR 20676, June 2, 1987; 53 FR 37412, Sept. 26, 1988]

§ 144.4 Considerations under Federal law.

The following is a list of Federal laws that may apply to the issuance of permits under these rules. When any of these laws is applicable, its procedures must be followed. When the applicable law requires consideration or adoption of particular permit conditions or requires the denial of a permit, those requirements also must be followed.

(a) The *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*, 16 U.S.C. 1273 *et seq.* Section 7 of the Act prohibits the Regional Administrator from assisting by license or otherwise the construction of any water resources project that would have a direct, adverse effect on the values for which a national wild and scenic river was established.

(b) The *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, 16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.* Section 106 of the Act and implementing regulations (36 CFR part 800) require the Regional Administrator, before issuing a license, to adopt measures when feasible to mitigate potential adverse effects of the licensed activity and properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Act's requirements are to be implemented in cooperation with State Historic Preservation Officers and upon notice to, and when appropriate, in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

(c) The *Endangered Species Act*, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.* Section 7 of the Act and implementing regulations (50 CFR part 402) require the Regional Administrator to ensure, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior or Commerce, that any action authorized by EPA is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or adversely affect its critical habitat.

(d) The *Coastal Zone Management Act*, 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.* Section 307(c) of the Act and implementing regulations (15 CFR part 930) prohibit EPA from issuing a permit for an activity affecting land or water use in the coastal zone until the applicant certifies that the proposed activity complies with the State Coastal Zone Management program, and the State or its designated agency concurs with the certification (or the Secretary of Commerce overrides the States non-concurrence).

(e) The *Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act*, 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*, requires the Regional Administrator, before issuing a permit proposing or authorizing the impoundment (with certain exemptions), diversion, or other control or modification of any body of water, consult with the appropriate State agency exercising jurisdiction over wildlife resources to conserve these resources.

(f) *Executive orders.* [Reserved]

(Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*), Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*), Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*))

[48 FR 14189, Apr. 1, 1983, as amended at 48 FR 39621, Sept. 1, 1983]

§ 144.5 Confidentiality of information.

(a) In accordance with 40 CFR part 2, any information submitted to EPA pursuant to these regulations may be claimed as confidential by the submitter. Any such claim must be asserted at the time of submission in the manner prescribed on the application form or instructions or, in the case of other submissions, by stamping the words "confidential business information" on each page containing such information. If no claim is made at the

of interim status under RCRA are set out in the applicable provisions of this part, parts 146 and 147, and § 265.430 of this chapter. The issuance of a UIC permit does not automatically terminate RCRA interim status. A Class I well's interim status does, however, automatically terminate upon issuance to that well of a RCRA permit, or upon the well's receiving a RCRA permit-by-rule under § 270.60(b) of this chapter. Thus, until a Class I well injecting hazardous waste receives a RCRA permit or RCRA permit-by-rule, the well's interim status requirements are the applicable requirements imposed pursuant to this part and parts 146, 147, and 265 of this chapter, including any requirements imposed in the UIC permit.

[48 FR 14189, Apr. 1, 1983, as amended at 49 FR 20181, May 11, 1984; 52 FR 20676, June 2, 1987; 52 FR 45797, Dec. 1, 1987; 53 FR 28147, July 26, 1988]

§ 144.2 Promulgation of Class II programs for Indian lands.

Notwithstanding the requirements of this part or parts 124 and 146 of this chapter, the Administrator may promulgate an alternate UIC Program for Class II wells on any Indian reservation or Indian lands. In promulgating such a program the Administrator shall consider the following factors:

- (a) The interest and preferences of the tribal government having responsibility for the given reservation or Indian lands;
- (b) The consistency between the alternate program and any program in effect in an adjoining jurisdiction; and
- (c) Such other factors as are necessary and appropriate to carry out the Safe Drinking Water Act.

§ 144.3 Definitions.

Terms not defined in this section have the meaning given by the appropriate Act. When a defined term appears in a definition, the defined term is sometimes placed within quotation marks as an aid to readers.

Administrator means the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an authorized representative.

Application means the EPA standard national forms for applying for a

permit, including any additions, revisions or modifications to the forms; or forms approved by EPA for use in approved States, including any approved modifications or revisions.

Appropriate Act and regulations means the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); or Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), whichever is applicable; and applicable regulations promulgated under those statutes.

Approved State Program means a UIC program administered by the State or Indian Tribe that has been approved by EPA according to SDWA sections 1422 and/or 1425.

Aquifer means a geological "formation," group of formations, or part of a formation that is capable of yielding a significant amount of water to a well or spring.

Area of review means the area surrounding an injection well described according to the criteria set forth in § 146.06 or in the case of an area permit, the project area plus a circumscribing area the width of which is either $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile or a number calculated according to the criteria set forth in § 146.06.

Contaminant means any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water.

Director means the Regional Administrator, the State director or the Tribal director as the context requires, or an authorized representative. When there is no approved State or Tribal program, and there is an EPA administered program, "Director" means the Regional Administrator. When there is an approved State or Tribal program, "Director" normally means the State or Tribal director. In some circumstances, however, EPA retains the authority to take certain actions even when there is an approved State or Tribal program. In such cases, the term "Director" means the Regional Administrator and not the State or Tribal director.

Draft permit means a document prepared under § 124.6 indicating the Director's tentative decision to issue or deny, modify, revoke and reissue, terminate, or reissue a "permit." A notice of intent to terminate a permit, and a

each of the first two years of program operation, the information required in 40 CFR 146.15, 146.25, and 146.35.

(c) *Schedule.* (1) For all quarterly reports. On the last working day of May, August, November, and February, the State Director shall submit to the Regional Administrator information concerning noncompliance with permit requirements by major facilities in the State in accordance with the following schedule. The Regional Administrator shall prepare and submit information for EPA-issued permits to EPA Headquarters in accordance with the same schedule.

QUARTERS COVERED BY REPORTS ON NONCOMPLIANCE BY MAJOR FACILITIES

[Date for completion of reports]

January, February, and March	¹ May 31
April, May, and June	¹ Aug. 31
July, August, and September	¹ Nov. 30
October, November, and December	¹ Feb. 28

¹ Reports must be made available to the public for inspection and copying on this date.

(2) *For all annual reports.* The period for annual reports shall be for the calendar year ending December 31, with reports completed and available to the public no more than 60 days later.

Subpart B—General Program Requirements

§ 144.11 Prohibition of unauthorized injection.

Any underground injection, except as authorized by permit or rule issued under the UIC program, is prohibited. The construction of any well required to have a permit is prohibited until the permit has been issued.

§ 144.12 Prohibition of movement of fluid into underground sources of drinking water.

(a) No owner or operator shall construct, operate, maintain, convert, plug, abandon, or conduct any other injection activity in a manner that allows the movement of fluid containing any contaminant into underground sources of drinking water, if the presence of that contaminant may cause a violation of any primary drinking water regulation under 40 CFR part

142 or may otherwise adversely affect the health of persons. The applicant for a permit shall have the burden of showing that the requirements of this paragraph are met.

(b) For Class I, II and III wells, if any water quality monitoring of an underground source of drinking water indicates the movement of any contaminant into the underground source of drinking water, except as authorized under part 146, the Director shall prescribe such additional requirements for construction, corrective action, operation, monitoring, or reporting (including closure of the injection well) as are necessary to prevent such movement. In the case of wells authorized by permit, these additional requirements shall be imposed by modifying the permit in accordance with § 144.39, or the permit may be terminated under § 144.40 if cause exists, or appropriate enforcement action may be taken if the permit has been violated. In the case of wells authorized by rule, see §§ 144.21 through 144.24. For EPA administered programs, such enforcement action shall be taken in accordance with appropriate sections of the SDWA.

(c) For Class V wells, if at any time the Director learns that a Class V well may cause a violation of primary drinking water regulations under 40 CFR part 142, he or she shall:

(1) Require the injector to obtain an individual permit;

(2) Order the injector to take such actions (including, where required, closure of the injection well) as may be necessary to prevent the violation. For EPA administered programs, such orders shall be issued in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the SDWA; or

(3) Take enforcement action.

(d) Whenever the Director learns that a Class V well may be otherwise adversely affecting the health of persons, he or she may prescribe such actions as may be necessary to prevent the adverse effect, including any action authorized under paragraph (c) of this section.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Director may take emergency action upon receipt of information that a contaminant which