

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

RULE 701. INJECTION OF FLUIDS INTO RESERVOIRS

A. Permit for Injection Required

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. Applications 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.

3. Administrative Approval

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.)

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 2 above and proof of publication as required by paragraph 3 above.

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

C. Hearings

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.

D. 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 notice and 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 Iriassic (Lea County only) which is nonproductive of oil or gas within a radius of two miles from the proposed injection well, and provided no objections are received pursuant to Rule 701-B(3).
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.

E. 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.

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-B(3).

F. 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.

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.

3. 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.

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.

4. 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.

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 waterflood injection for any authorized project and provided that no objections are received pursuant to Rule 701-B(3).

G. Storage Wells

The Division Director shall have authority to grant an exception to the hearing requirements of Rule 701-A for the underground storage of liquafied petroleum gas or liquid hydrocarbons in secure caverns within massive salt beds, and provided no objections are received pursuant to Rule 701-B(3).

VII. Data on proposed operation.

1. Average water injection shall be approximately 2000 BPD per well. Maximum daily water injection should not exceed 4000 BPD per well.
2. The system is closed.
3. The average injection pressure is anticipated to be zero. The maximum injection pressure should not exceed 1600 psig (0.2 psi/ft X 8000').