



Hearings Notice/Public Comment Period

Proposed Changes to Underground Injection Control Program (UIC) Rules

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

What is the purpose of the UIC Program rules?

The purpose of the UIC Program rules is to protect ground water by regulating the discharges to UIC wells. UIC wells are used to manage storm water (for example drywells located along roadways) and sanitary waste (large on-site systems), return water to the ground, and help clean up contaminated sites.

Why are the rules being revised?

The Environmental Protection Agency revised the UIC federal regulations, and the Department of Ecology must update its rules to continue administering the UIC Program. The rules are also being revised to clarify what UIC wells can be used for in Washington and what the requirements are.

When is the public comment period?

The public is invited to comment on the proposal from **July 6 through September 15, 2005**.

Where may I submit comments?

Email: maha461@ecy.wa.gov

Mail: Mary Shaleen-Hansen
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

FAX: 360-407-6426

What are the proposed changes?

- The federal UIC program requirements have been incorporated into the UIC rule.
- Language has been added to allow fluids from storm water and municipal, commercial, industrial, and residential sources into UIC wells if the requirements of the UIC rule are met.
- Language has been added to describe what is needed to operate a Class V UIC well without a permit (rule authorization).
- The requirements for closing a UIC well are described and a section lists what types of UIC wells will automatically meet the ground water protection requirement of the rule.
- A minor change to the State Waste Discharge Permit Program rules (Chapter 173-216 WAC) is being proposed to allow UIC wells to be permitted.

All hearings begin at 1:30 p.m.

Longview

August 16, 2005

Lower Columbia College (Student Center)

1600 Maple

1:30 pm

Edmonds

August 18, 2005

Snohomish County PUD

21018 Highway 99

1:30 pm

Yakima

August 23, 2005

Yakima Convention Center
10 N 8th St

1:30 pm

Spokane

August 24, 2005

Spokane Downtown Public Library

West 906 Main St.

1:30 pm

What is the schedule for final rule adoption?

The Department of Ecology will hold a formal public review comment period on the proposed rules from July 6 to September 15. Hearings are being held around the state in August to seek comments on the draft rule (see page one). The tentative date to file the final rule and associated Administrative Procedures Act documents is October 15, 2005

How can I get more information on the issues?

The Department of Ecology has prepared draft regulations for formal public review. In addition, the draft Administrative Procedures Act materials are available along with Frequently Asked Questions. The State Environmental Policy Act analysis and determination of nonsignificance are also out for public review and comment during the same timeframe. All of this information can be found at: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/grndwtr/uic/index.html.

Please contact Mary Shaleen-Hansen at 360-407-6143 for further questions on the UIC rule or the public review process.

If you have special accommodations needs or if you require this information in an alternate format, please contact us at 360-407-6404. If you are a person with a speech or hearing impairment, call 711 or 800-833-6388 for TTY.