LOUISIANA UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL (UIC) PROGRAM

*(A companion to the **Louisiana UIC Program Workshop Introduction** presentation)*

INTRODUCTION

(SLIDE NO. 2)

March 23, 1982 — Under provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) delegated Louisiana with full permitting and enforcement authority (primacy) of the state's UIC Program with Semi-annual USEPA oversight.

The goal of the UIC program is to protect **Underground Sources of Drinking Water (USDW)** and other state natural resources from endangerment by regulating the subsurface emplacement of fluids using well injection by:

- Processing applications for various subsurface injection projects.
- Conduct field surveillance and enforcement at injection well sites and facilities.
- Test injection wells for mechanical integrity.
- Monitor injection well operations (cradle-to-grave).

UNDERGROUND SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER

(SLIDE NO. 3)

An ***Underground Source of Drinking Water*** is defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and adopted by the State of Louisiana as:

- An aquifer or its portion which supplies any public water system; or
- An aquifer or its portion which contains a sufficient quantity of ground water to supply a public water system; and
  - currently supplies drinking water for human consumption; or
  - contains fewer than 10,000 mg/l total dissolved solids and which is not an exempted aquifer.

REGULATORY CLASSES OF INJECTION WELLS

(SLIDE NO. 4)

The following table categorizes the various classifications of injection wells as defined by the USEPA and as adopted for use in the State of Louisiana. Except for Class V well injection, all subsurface injection must occur below the formation containing the lowermost USDW.

Well Classification	Description
Class I	Hazardous or Nonhazardous Industrial or Municipal Waste
Class II	Oil and Gas Waste, Enhanced Recovery of Hydrocarbons, or, Hydrocarbon Storage in a Salt Cavern
Class III	Mineral Solution Mining (salt, sulphur, etc.)
Class IV	Wells injecting hazardous or radioactive waste into or above a USDW. Banned unless part of an authorized RCRA or CERCLA cleanup
Class V	Wells not covered under any other Class of injection well (e.g., aquifer remediation, heat pump/ac return flow, etc.)
Class VI	Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) Sequestration

INJECTION & MINING DIVISION REGULATIONS

(SLIDE NO. 5)

The basic regulations of the Office of Conservation are a series of documents called Statewide Orders. These Orders form the backbone of the regulatory scheme and provide structure for operational requirements. The regulations are lawfully codified in the Louisiana Administrative Code and prefixed by the letters LAC. The regulations below relate to injection wells:

Louisiana Administrative Code	Statewide Order	Subject of Regulation
LAC 43:XIX.Chapter 3	Statewide Order No. 29-B, Chapter 3	Onsite storage, treatment and disposal of oilfield waste. Primarily oilfield pit regulations, but also has some general requirements for Class II disposal wells

Louisiana Administrative Code	Statewide Order	Subject of Regulation
LAC 43:XIX.Chapter 4	Statewide Order No. 29-B, Chapter 4	General regulations for a Class II produced fluids disposal well
LAC 43:XIX.Chapter 5	Statewide Order No. 29-B, Chapter 5	Regulations specific to commercial oilfield waste facilities
LAC 43:XVII.Chapter 1	Statewide Order No. 29-N-1	Class I Nonhazardous Industrial Waste, Class III Mineral Solution Mining, Class IV, Class V, Class VI
LAC 43:XVII.Chapter 2	Statewide Order No. 29-N-2	Class I Hazardous Industrial Waste
LAC 43:XVII.Chapter 3	Statewide Order No. 29-M	Class II Hydrocarbon Storage in Salt Dome Caverns
LAC 43:XVII.Chapter 31	Statewide Order No. 29-M-2	Class II Disposal of Oilfield Waste in Solution-Mined Salt Caverns

FEE SCHEDULE AT LAC 43:XIX.CHAPTER 7
(INCLUDING APPLICATION FEES)

(SLIDE NO. 6)

The various fees assessed by the Office of Conservation are in a schedule codified in Statewide Order No. 29-R (LAC 43:XIX.Chapter 7). It includes application fees, regulatory fees, production fees, etc. The Office of Conservation promulgates a new fee schedule on November 20 of each year and publishes the proposed and new schedule in the Louisiana Register. The table below shows the more commonly used injection well application fees:

Application Type	Per Well Application Fee
Commercial Class I (one well)	$1264
▪ Each additional Commercial Class I well within the same filing	$ 631
Commercial Class II (one well)	$ 631
▪ Each additional Commercial Class II well within the same filing	$ 314

Application Type	Per Well Application Fee
Noncommercial Injection Well	$ 252
Amend Permit to Drill (amend a permit after issuance)	$ 126
Well Workover	Free

Important: Always refer to the current Office of Conservation fee schedule for the appropriate application fee or other Office of Conservation fees as the schedule is subject to change.

TWO-PART PERMITTING PROCESS

(SLIDE NOS. 7 - 10)

PART I: PERMIT-TO-CONSTRUCT:

- Public Notice of Application. This is usually a Notice of Intent to file an application depending on the class of well and project type. In most cases, a public hearing on an application is not required, but will be held if requested by anyone.
- Administrative Review (properly completed forms, required documents, compliance history, financial responsibility, etc.). After receiving an application, we will mail a receipt letter acknowledging our receipt of the application and providing the assigned application number.
- Technical Review to assure that well will be constructed to prevent movement of fluids into USDW's or hydrocarbon productive formations. (hydrology, geology, well construction and operation, area-of-review, corrective action, etc.).
- Notice of Application Deficiency (NOD) will be sent to the applicant or its agent if additional data or clarification of provided data is needed. We must receive your complete responses to the NOD or a written request for additional time to respond by the due date specified in the NOD letter. If not, the application will be denied and you must reapply.
- Permit-to-Construct issued when the application is administratively and technically complete.

PART II: PERMIT-TO-INJECT:

- Technical evaluation of well construction to determine if the well was completed as permitted.

  - All well completion and construction report forms,
  - Well or reservoir tests,

- Field inspection reports, well mechanical integrity tests.
- Well operator may be required to perform corrective action if the well was not completed as approved.
- Permit-to-Inject issued with operational conditions as Maximum Authorized Surface Injection Pressure (MASIP), injection rate/volume, frequency for well mechanical integrity tests, reservoir tests, etc.

WHEN AND WHERE TO PUBLISH A PUBLIC NOTICE

(SLIDE NOS. 11 - 12)

All applications for a new injection well or to convert an existing non-injection well to injection must be publicly noticed. The timing and type of public notice is dependent on the Class of injection well. Always refer to the appropriate regulation of the project.

For applications that must be publicly noticed in the official parish journal, the list of official parish journals is maintained by the Louisiana Secretary of State and can be accessed online at http://www.sos.la.gov.

Well Type/Class	Timing of Public Notice	Newspaper/Journal to Publish Notice
Class I Noncommercial	No public notice required by applicant. Injection and Mining Division (IMD) publishes notice of application and any public hearing after application deemed complete.	1. The Advocate (Baton Rouge), and 2. official parish journal in project locale
Class I Commercial *Refer to Statewide Order No. 29-N-2 (LAC 43:XVII.211.E.4.c).*	After IMD deems application complete, the applicant publishes a notice of the application and required public hearing at least 30 days prior to the scheduled public hearing. The public notice is at least one-half page in size, bold type, and published on three separate days in each journal with at least five days between publications.	1. The Advocate (Baton Rouge), and 2. official parish journal in project locale

Well Type/Class	Timing of Public Notice	Newspaper/Journal to Publish Notice
Class II Saltwater Disposal: For Oil and Gas Operators	Applicant publishes Notice of Intent to file application at least 15 days prior to filing application	The Advocate (Baton Rouge)
Class II Saltwater Disposal: For Salt Cavern Operators	Applicant publishes notice of application's filing within 30 days from the date of receipt of the application by IMD (after applicant receives IMD receipt letter with application number)	1. The Advocate (Baton Rouge), and 2. official parish journal in project locale
Class II Commercial Exploration & Production Waste *Refer to Statewide Order No. 29-B (LAC 43:XIX.519.B and 529.B) for public notice requirements*.	**New Well at New Commercial Facility:** Applicant publishes Notice of Intent at least 30 days prior to filing the application. The public notice is at least one-quarter page in size, bold type, and published on three separate days in each journal.	1. The Advocate (Baton Rouge), 2. official parish journal in project locale, and 3. journal of general circulation in project locale if different than official parish journal
	New Well at Existing Commercial Facility: Applicant publishes Notice of Intent to file application at least 15 days prior to filing an application. Publish once in the legal ad section of each journal.	
Class II Enhanced Recovery	No public notice required for injection well. A public hearing is convened by the Office of Conservation, Engineering Division to act on an enhanced recovery project. Any approving action approves the enhanced recovery project only, not the individual UIC wells.	Contact the Office of Conservation, Engineering Division for information
Class II Hydrocarbon Storage in Salt Dome	Applicant publishes Notice of Intent to file application at least 30 days but no more than 180 days before filing application	1. The Advocate (Baton Rouge), 2. official parish journal in project locale

Well Type/Class	Timing of Public Notice	Newspaper/Journal to Publish Notice
Class III Solution Mining	Applicant publishes Notice of Intent to file application at least 30 days but no more than 180 days before filing application	1. The Advocate (Baton Rouge), and 2. official parish journal in project locale
Class V	Not required	
Class VI CO2 Sequestration	No public notice required by applicant. Injection and Mining Division (IMD) publishes notice of application and any public hearing after application deemed complete.	1. The Advocate (Baton Rouge), and 2. official parish journal in project locale

WHERE CAN I FIND UIC-RELATED FORMS?

(SLIDE NOS. 14 - 18)

All forms used by the Injection and Mining Division are downloadable from the Internet by doing the following:

- Go to the DNR homepage at http://dnr.louisiana.gov.
- Click the word **CONSERVATION** near the top of the page.
- Click the word **FORMS** located in the blue field on the left side of the page under the heading “Conservation”.
- Under the heading, “Forms, Reports & Documents”, click **INJECTION & MINING DIVISION**. This gives a list of all forms.
- Scroll to the appropriate form and download.

HOW DO I CHECK THE STATUS OF AN APPLICATION?

(SLIDE NOS. 19 - 31)

The status of any injection well application can be tracked via the Internet by doing the following:

- Go to the DNR homepage at http://dnr.louisiana.gov and click anywhere in the orange rectangle titled **SONRIS**.
- Click the word **DATA ACCESS** located in the blue field on the left side of the page under the heading “Conservation”.

- Under the subheading “Java Based”, Click **CONSERVATION.** This takes you to a page with a series of links listed under various headings.
- Scroll to the heading “Injection Information” and click **UIC WELL APPLICATIONS**. This takes you to the Maintain UIC Well Application Sonris page.
- On the menu bar at the top of the page, click **QUERY.** *Note: As an alternate method for Step 5, you can hit the Function 7 key on your computer keyboard instead of clicking Query. If doing so, skip Step 6 and go directly to Step 7.*
- After clicking Query, a dropdown menu will appear. Click **ENTER** on the dropdown menu. *Note: You will skip Step 6 if in Step 5 above you hit the Function 7 key.*
- Enter the **Application Number** where indicated in the upper left field of the UIC application screen.
- On the menu bar at the top of the page, click **QUERY**, then click **EXECUTE** on the dropdown menu. *Note: As an alternate method for Step 8, you can hit the Function 8 key on your computer keyboard instead of clicking Query and Execute.*
- You are now viewing the specific application information.

Using the above steps will provide you with information on a single UIC application. For information on all UIC applications submitted for an existing well with a valid Office of Conservation well serial number, follow Steps 1 through 6 above. In Step 7, instead of entering the application number, enter the well’s **Serial Number** in the field titled **EXISTING WELL SERIAL NUM**. All UIC application submitted for the well will be listed. Click on any of the listed application numbers for information on each unique application.

UPCOMING CHANGES

(SLIDE NO. 32)

- UIC application forms are being revised. There will be new forms created for each well type; i.e. UIC-2 SWD Conversion, UIC-2 SWD New Drill, UIC-2 SWD Re-entry. Check the Injection & Mining Division’s forms page regularly for up-to-date forms.
- Do not submit a copy of the instructions with the application.
- The Form MD-10-R (yellow card) is no longer required with a UIC application. The Form MD-10-R-A (pink card) will still be required to amend permits.
- New **Form UIC-WH-1** replaces the Form WH-1 for injection wells only. The Form WH-1 is still required for oil and gas wells permitted through an Office of Conservation district office.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

(SLIDE NO. 34)

- You are responsible.
- Respond to all correspondences before the specified due date.
- If an extension of the expiration date for a Permit-to-Construct is needed, submit a written request and a $126 Amend Permit-to-Drill fee to the Injection and Mining Division before the permit expiration date.
- The Injection and Mining Division in Baton Rouge administers all matters regarding injection wells. Do Not Contact A Conservation District Office.

INJECTION & MINING DIVISION CONTACT INFORMATION

(SLIDE NO. 35)

Telephone: 225-342-5515
Fax: 225-342-3094; OR 225-242-3441
Email: Injection-Mining@La.Gov

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

(SLIDE NO. 36)

- **Louisiana Department of Natural Resources:**
  www.dnr.louisiana.gov
- **Louisiana Office of the State Register:**
  www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/osr.htm
- **Louisiana Secretary of State (for list of official parish journals):**
  www.sos.la.gov
- **United States Environmental Protection Agency:**
  www.epa.gov
  www.epa.gov/region6/water
  www.epa.gov/region6/water/swp/uic/index.htm

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