



State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

322 East Front Street, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0098
Phone: (208) 287-4800 FAX: (208) 287-6700 www.idwr.idaho.gov

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

Gary Spackman
Interim Director

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2009
BOISE COUNTY
PLANNING & ZONING

August 12, 2009

Re: Change in where to submit Shallow Injection Well Inventories in Ada, Boise, Elmore, & Valley Counties.

To Engineering/Design Professional:

Starting August 17, 2009, please note that the point of contact for shallow injection well inventories are as follows:

Wells located in Ada County (outside Boise City limits) and Boise County:

Central District Health Department, 707 North Armstrong Place, Boise, Idaho 83704, (208) 375-5211.

Wells located within Boise City limits:

Brian Murphy, Boise City Hall, P.O. Box 500, Boise, ID 83701- 0500, (208) 384-3752.

Wells located in Elmore County:

Central District Health Department, 520 East 8th St. North, Mountain Home, Idaho 83647, (208) 587-4407.

Wells located in Valley County

Central District Health Department, 703 N. 1st Street, McCall, Idaho 83638, (208) 634-7194.

Attached is some information regarding shallow injection wells in Idaho. If you have any questions regarding deep injection wells, contact the IDWR Underground Injection Control Program:

Idaho Department of Water Resources
Underground Injection Control Program
322 East Front Street
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0098

Ph: 208-287-4800

INFORMATION ABOUT SHALLOW INJECTION WELLS IN IDAHO

Why did I get this letter?

You received this letter because your company potentially designs or constructs features that dispose of fluids ≤ 18 feet into the subsurface. These features have many different designs (dry wells, seepage beds, infiltration trenches, infiltration galleries, French drains, etc.), but in Idaho they are collectively known as shallow injection wells. Storm water runoff from paved surfaces is the most common type of fluid disposed of using shallow injection wells, but these features are used for disposal of a variety of fluids, including industrial process water, heat pump return flow, etc. The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) manages shallow injection wells in Idaho through the Underground Injection Well Program (UIC) under a primacy agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

What are the requirements for shallow injection wells in Idaho?

The rules for shallow injection wells in Idaho can be found in Section 30 of IDAPA 37.03.03 "Rules for Construction and Use of Injection Wells." In summary, the rules state:

- An inventory that provides contact, construction, and location information for each shallow injection well constructed since April 1984 must be submitted to IDWR or a duly authorized agent.
- A one-time processing fee of \$75 per well must accompany each inventory form for shallow injection wells constructed after July 1, 1997.

What should I do about shallow injection wells I installed between 1984 and 1997?

There is no exemption from the shallow injection well inventory requirement. Please provide documentation of the well construction date and submit with the completed Shallow Injection Well Inventory Form to the appropriate address above.

What should I do about shallow injection wells I installed after 1997?

There is no exemption from the shallow injection well inventory requirement and only one exemption for the associated processing fee. State or local government entities are exempt from Shallow Injection Well Inventory processing fees for wells associated with highway and street construction and maintenance projects. This exception does not extend to private contractors or developers who construct shallow injection wells for runoff from streets, regardless of whether the responsibility for street maintenance will later transfer to a government entity.

Submit a Shallow Injection Well Inventory Form for all shallow injection wells and submit the processing fees for all shallow injection wells not part of a state or local government project.

Where can I get the inventory form?

The "Shallow Injection Well Inventory Form" can be downloaded from the IDWR website:

www.idwr.idaho.gov/WaterManagement/WellInformation/Injection/shallow/default.htm

Is the inventory requirement generally being met in Idaho?

No. More than 11,500 shallow injection wells have been inventoried in Idaho. However, the spatial distribution of the shallow injection wells inventoried indicates abnormally low numbers of inventories in some areas with significant commercial and residential development. The following table is the number of inventoried shallow injection wells in Idaho by county.

County	Shallow Injection Well Inventories	County	Shallow Injection Well Inventories
Ada	2484	Gem	39
Adams	0	Gooding	20
Bannock (City of Pocatello)	135	Idaho	21
Bear Lake	0	Jefferson	30
Benewah	4	Jerome	7
Bingham	29	Kootenai	6549
Blaine	144	Latah (City of Moscow)	16
Boise	3	Lemhi	21
Bonner	20	Lewis	2
Bonneville (City of Idaho Falls)	85	Lincoln	21
Boundary	15	Madison	48
Butte	63	Minidoka	6
Camas	0	Nez Perce (City of Lewiston)	65
Canyon	471	Oneida	0
Caribou	0	Owyhee	17
Cassia	10	Payette	24
Clark	0	Power	18
Clearwater	11	Shoshone	26
Custer	8	Teton	5
Elmore	21	Twin Falls (City of Twin Falls)	33
Franklin	6	Valley	4
Fremont	9	Washington	6

What types of shallow injection wells are banned?

Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells are banned nationally. Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells are typically designed as drains or sumps in vehicle maintenance areas that connect to on-site septic systems or dry wells. Vehicle maintenance shops can consist of facilities that maintain any type of vehicle such as a car, truck, boat, plane, etc. If the system is connected to a municipal sewer system, the system is allowed with the approval of the local sewer authority and building inspector.

Large Capacity Cesspools are also banned nationally. These systems take untreated waste from multi-family facilities, or any facility serving twenty or more people, and dispose of it into a cesspool or drywell.

How can I get more information?

Visit the IDWR website at:

www.idwr.idaho.gov/WaterManagement/WellInformation/Injection/injection.htm



Idaho Department of Water Resources Memo
For
Shallow Injection Well Criteria
Effective Date: 9/26/2008

The intent of this document is to detail the criteria necessary to classify a feature as a shallow injection well based on IDWR's interpretation of Federal and State rules.

Federal Definitions: (40 CFR, part 144.3 - Definitions)

1. Well: A bored, drilled, or driven shaft whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension; or, a dug hole whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension; or, an improved sinkhole; or, a subsurface fluid distribution system.
2. Improved Sinkhole: A naturally occurring karst depression or other natural crevice found in volcanic terrain and other geologic settings which have been modified by man for the purpose of directing and emplacing fluids into the subsurface.
3. Subsurface Fluid Distribution System: An assemblage of perforated pipes, drain tiles, or other similar mechanisms intended to distribute fluids below the surface of the ground.
4. Fluid: Any material or substance which flows or moves whether in a semisolid, liquid, sludge, gas, or any other form or state.
5. **Injection Well: A "well" into which "fluids" are being injected.**

State of Idaho Definitions: (Title 42, Chapter 39, 42-3902 - Waste Disposal and Injection Wells)

1. **Injection well: Any excavation or artificial opening into the ground which meets the following three (3) criteria:**
 - (a) **It is a bored, drilled or dug hole, or is a driven mine shaft or a driven well point; and**
 - (b) **It is deeper than its largest straight-line surface dimension; and**
 - (c) **It is used for or intended to be used for injection.**
2. Injection: The subsurface emplacement of fluids.
3. Shallow Injection Well: An injection well which is less than or equal to eighteen (18) feet in vertical depth below land surface.

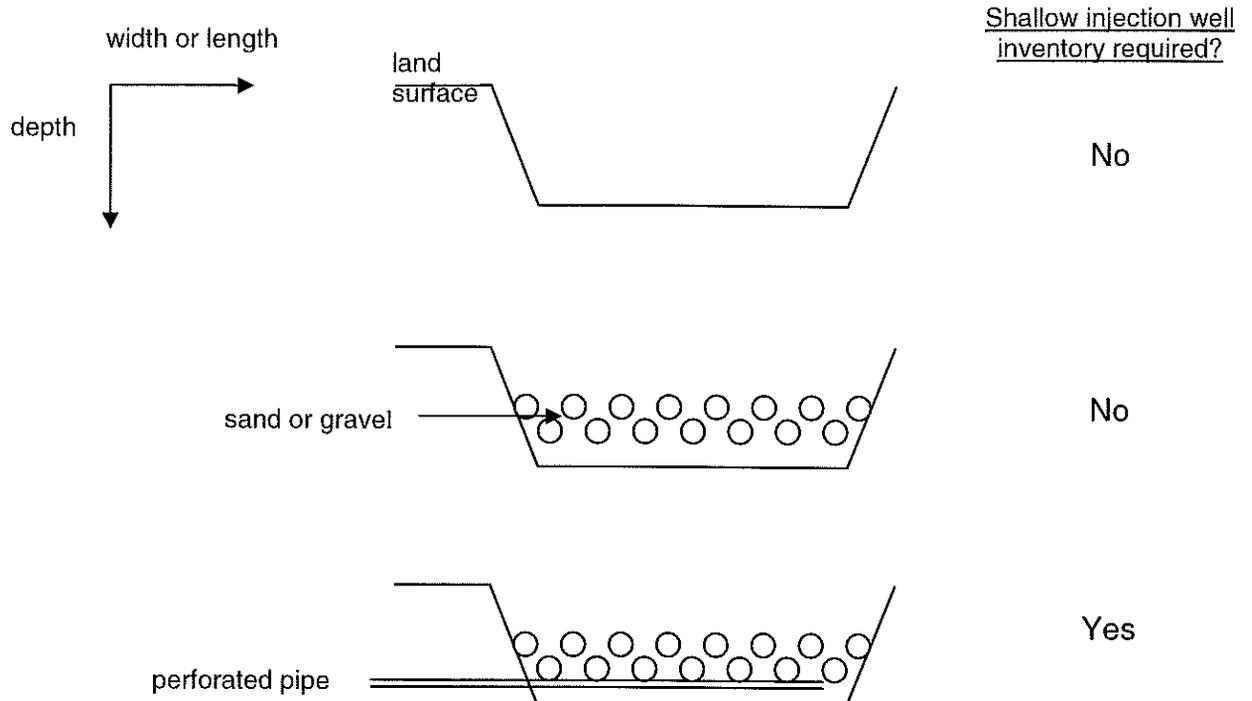
The State of Idaho uses the Federal definitions for fluid and subsurface fluid distribution system in IDAPA 37.03.03 - Rules for the Construction and Use of Injection Wells.

Exemptions from Underground Injection Control inventory requirements: (40 CFR, part 144.81(9))

- Single family residential septic system wells
- Non-residential septic systems used solely for disposal of sanitary waste with a capacity to serve fewer than 20-persons per day

Both of these cases are, however, regulated by the Idaho department of Environmental Quality and/or State Health Departments.

The following three scenarios represent trenches that are not deeper than their largest surface dimension. The first two scenarios do not use a subsurface fluid distribution system.



The following two scenarios depict boreholes that are deeper than their largest surface dimension, that may or may not be filled with sand or gravel, and do not utilize a subsurface fluid distribution system.

