

How Are Class II Oil and Gas Disposal Wells Regulated to Protect Water Quality?

The Railroad Commission of Texas' (RRC's) Underground Injection Control (UIC) program ensures that our surface and subsurface water is free of pollution or contamination by requiring proper completion, operation, and monitoring of oil and gas injection and disposal wells. RRC rules prohibit injection into useable-quality water and restrict injection into underground sources of drinking water (USDWs).

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and its predecessor agencies have in the past advised the RRC and industry on the occurrence of protected groundwater (Underground Sources of Drinking Water, or USDWs). However, in accordance with Article 2 of House Bill 2694, passed by the 82nd Texas Legislature in 2011, duties pertaining to the responsibility of preparing groundwater protection advisory/recommendation letters have been transferred from the TCEQ to the RRC, effective Sept. 1, 2011.

Resources and Useful Links

- *RRC Injection and Disposal Wells Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*, <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/about-us/faqs/oil-gas-faq/injection-and-disposal-wells-faqs/>
- *RRC's Injection Storage Manual*, <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/oil-and-gas/publications-and-notices/manuals/injection-storage-manual/>.
- TCEQ's "Underground Injection Control Permits" webpage, https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/radmat/uic_permits/uic.html.
- TCEQ's webpage, "Oil and Gas Facilities: Additional Information," includes regulations on air, water, and waste related to the oil and gas industry in Texas, https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/industry/oil-and-gas/oilgas_additional.html.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) webpage, "Protecting Underground Sources of Drinking Water from Underground Injection (UIC)," <https://www.epa.gov/uic>.
- EPA's webpage, "General Information About Injection Wells," includes links to individual web pages for each of the UIC well types, Class I – VI, which include comprehensive information on each injection well type as well as cross-sectional diagrams, https://www.epa.gov/uic/general-information-about-injection-wells#how_protect.
- EPA's SDWA website, <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa>.
- The Ground Water Protection Council's website provides information and links relating to wells, underground injection practices, and groundwater protection, <https://www.gwpc.org>.

- The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Oil, Gas, & Mining webpage has additional information and links on this subject, <https://tgpc.texas.gov/oil-gas-mining>.

Other Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

To find additional FAQs visit the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee's FAQ webpage at <https://tgpc.texas.gov/frequently-asked-questions-faqs>.