

**Permit Brief – Federal – Appendix F-5  
Underground Injection Control Permit  
U.S. EPA**

**Reason for Approval/Permit:** To construct and operate an underground injection well or wells involving subsurface injection of waste fluids below, into and above underground sources of drinking water. Injection includes seeping, flowing, leaching, and pumping, with or without added pressure.

**Permit Approval Authority:** U.S. EPA Region 9 Water Program, 75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105; Phone: 415-947-8707 (Region 9 Water Program); Phone: 800-426-4791 (Safe Drinking Water Hotline)

**References:** [40 CFR Part 144](#) – Underground Injection Control Program

**Fees:** None

**Permit Prerequisite(s):** None

**Websites:** [Pacific Southwest, Region 9 – Underground Injection Control](#)  
[Underground Injection Control Program](#)

Checklist	Estimated Time
Contact the U.S. EPA Ground Water Office to inform EPA of the injection activity in the planning stages of the project. EPA will make an initial determination as to whether a permit is required. <b>Contact (TBD IF POC ACCURATE)</b> David Albright, Manager of the U.S. EPA Ground Water Office 415-972-3971; <a href="mailto:albright.david@epa.gov">albright.david@epa.gov</a>	
Submit a complete permit application to the EPA Regional Administrator. Permit application must include information on activities conducted by the applicant which require it to obtain permits under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Underground Injection Control (UIC), the National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) program under the Clean Water Act (CWA), or the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program under the Clean Air Act (CAA).	--
EPA approves or denies permit application.	--
<b>Total Estimated Time from Application Acceptance</b>	<b>6 to 18 months</b>

Reporting Forms: <http://water.epa.gov/type/groundwater/uic/reportingforms.cfm>

Form 7520-6 (Class V Wells) <http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/uic/pdfs/reportingforms/7520-6.pdf>

Clarification on Class V Wells <http://www.epa.gov/region4/water/uic/downloads/di/cl5clarification.pdf>

Form 7520-16 <http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/uic/pdfs/reportingforms/7520-16.pdf>

**Notes:**

The UIC Program prevents contamination of underground sources of drinking water (USDWs) by regulating injection activities. The UIC regulations address activities throughout the life of an injection well, including siting, construction, operation and monitoring, and closure. These requirements are designed to prevent contaminants from moving into drinking water sources. There are UIC requirements specific to each class of well to address the uses of the wells and the potential threats to USDWs each may pose.

A Class I non-hazardous injection well is an industrial or municipal disposal well which injects fluids beneath the lowermost formation containing, within one quarter mile of the well bore, an underground source of drinking water. An underground source of drinking water has a federal definition in 40 CFR 144.3. Class I wells require a federal UIC permit.

Class V wells are usually shallow wells which inject fluids into or above an underground source of drinking water. Class V wells can be for septic systems (for multi-dwellings, businesses, or communities), wastewater injection wells, geothermal related injection wells, drainage wells, cooling water return flow wells, dry wells, etc.

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The Class V well owner or operator has to submit an EPA UIC Inventory of Injection Wells form (Form 7520-16) prior to construction of the well. These types of wells are authorized by rule, meaning they do not apply for a federal permit, but must comply with 40 CFR 144.79 – 144.89.

EPA has the authority to require a Class V injection well to obtain a federal UIC permit. The Ground Water Office makes that determination on a case by case basis.

**For Basic Information about Injection Wells**

<http://water.epa.gov/type/groundwater/uic/basicinformation.cfm>

- page to find the contacts for your state.
- Visit the page on [UIC Program Primacy](#) for more information on how states, tribes, and territories can gain primacy for the UIC program.