

NDWAC UIC/ Source Water Program Integration Working Group

Executive Summary

Meeting January 7-8, 1999

I. BACKGROUND

The first meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) Underground Injection Control (UIC)/ Source Water Protection Program Integration was held on January 7-8, 1999 in Denver, Colorado. Twenty-one workgroup members participated both days. Members Thomas Crawford, Jane Houlihan, John Gennaro, Suzi Ruhl, Kathryn Hohmann, Gary Jackson, and John Balbus were unable to attend.

A. Purpose

The working group represents a broad range of public interests including: state, federal and local government representatives; public interest groups, including environmental organizations; universities; industry; and utility operators. The purpose of the working group is to provide advice on:

- 1) Class V UIC issues
- 2) Source Water Program issues
- 3) Class V/Source Water Program Integration

In January 1997, EPA entered into a consent decree with the Sierra Club. The consent decree requires EPA to regulate shallow injection wells known to pose a high risk to USDWs, study the remaining shallow injection wells, and based on the outcome of the study, propose either regulations or a decision that no further rule making is necessary for these remaining wells. As part of this process, EPA proposed *Revisions to the Underground Injection Control Regulations for Class V Injection Wells* (63 FR 40586) for three subclasses of high risk wells. Significant issues raised during the public comment period were presented for discussion at this meeting.

II. MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting began with a briefing on the UIC Program, the proposed Class V Regulation and the Source Water Assessment Program. The briefing provided the workgroup the information necessary for discussion of issues affecting the proposed regulation. In addition, an update was provided on the current status of the rule and the public comments received.

This group's objectives for this meeting were to: 1) Make recommendations on how public comment could be addressed for the final regulation, and 2) Discuss the relationship between the Source Water Assessment Program and the Class V Regulation. The workgroup reviewed many issues regarding the proposed rule, including:

- Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells: How should they be addressed?
 - The definition of Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells

- Options for Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Well Regulation, including: 1) Ban 2) Ban with a waiver
 - Recommendations for Motor Vehicle Well Permits
- Rule Coverage: Should the regulation be limited to Source Water Protection Areas for Community Water Systems and Non-transient Water Systems that use groundwater as a source?
 - Options included: SWAPs; statewide; statewide with exclusions; Source Water "Enhanced," which would add other sensitive areas; and all delineated areas (including transient systems).
- Timing: If states do not complete their Source Water Assessments by May 2003, should the regulation be implemented statewide? If not, what are the alternatives?
- Risk: Were the right wells included in this proposal?
- Overview of Class V Study

III. NEXT STEPS

The Working Group agreed that another meeting was necessary. The group tentatively discussed a meeting for March 25-26, 1999 in Washington, D.C. to discuss the issues not addressed in this meeting. Issues discussed in March will include:

- Stormwater
- Timing (continuation of previous discussion)
- Requirements for Primacy States