



Company Asks EPA for Disposal Well Permit

Beeland Group Non-Hazardous Disposal Well

Alba, Michigan

May 2007

Public invited

Wednesday, June 13

Information meeting: 6-7 p.m.

Hearing/Comments: 7-9 p.m.

Alba Public School Gymnasium
5935 Elm St.

Comments welcome

The public can comment on the Beeland Group's application for an injection well permit in Antrim County. A public comment period runs through midnight Wednesday, June 27.

Comments can be made in person or in writing during the hearing.

Written comments can also be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to:

EPA Region 5

UIC Branch, Attn: William Bates

77 W. Jackson Blvd (WU-16J)

Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Phone: 312-886-6110

Fax: 312-886-4235

bates.william@epa.gov

For questions or more information about the permit application, contact William Bates at 312-886-6110, or Dave Novak, EPA community involvement coordinator, at 312-886-7478. Region 5 toll-free: 800-621-8431, weekdays 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Records available

Copies of the draft permit and administrative record for this permit action are available for viewing at the Mancelona Township Library, 202 W. State St., Mancelona, or at Region 5's Chicago office by calling William Bates for an appointment. Full public notice information is at: www.epa.gov/region5/water/uic/ui_cpub.htm

Beeland Group LLC has applied to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a permit to construct and operate a deep well in Antrim County for the disposal of non-hazardous liquid waste. The public can hear a presentation on the well and permit during an information meeting June 13 and comment on the permit during a comment period that runs through midnight Wednesday, June 27 (see details in the box to the left). After studying the well proposal, especially its safety factors, EPA intends to approve the permit unless new information surfaces during the comment period.¹

EPA, in consultation with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, is supervising the cleanup of cement kiln dust contamination at the Bay Harbor area along Little Traverse Bay. The proposed Class I waste injection well will be used for disposal of nonhazardous wastewater from the Bay Harbor area cleanup near Petoskey. If approved, the well would be located a quarter-mile west of the intersection of Alba Highway/County Road 42 and Patterson Road.

The Beeland Group, based in Jackson, Mich., has developed plans that meet federal rules requiring that disposal wells do not threaten underground sources of drinking water. The well pipe will be encased in a cement shell to prevent leaks, and the waste will be injected into a deep layer of rock well below the nearest drinking water source. The base of the lowest rock layer containing a potential drinking water source is 900 feet underground, and the proposed well will inject waste into a layer 2,150 feet deep. A layer of shale above the injection zone will confine the waste and protect the potential drinking water source.

Other safeguards include restrictions on the injection well pressure so operations do not fracture the rock layer where the waste will be stored. The Beeland Group has obtained a line of credit that will be set aside in case the proposed well has to be closed and plugged. This would ensure that any costs associated with abandoning or closing the well if needed would be covered.


About 200 wells are currently permitted in Antrim County to inject into this same geologic layer. EPA's review concluded the well, if built, would pose no serious environmental effect on drinking water supplies in the area.

¹ Part C and Section 1421 of the Safe Drinking Water Act and 40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 144, 146 and 147 govern underground injection wells. Federal law mandates EPA regulate these wells to protect drinking water sources. Also under federal regulations, EPA is designated as the agency that administers the underground injection well program in Michigan. Official documents about this proposed well permit application and the underground injection well program can be found at the information repository in the Mancelona Township Library, Mancelona, Mich.

**Company Asks EPA for
Permit to Sink Non-Hazardous
Disposal Well
Alba, Michigan**

Public Comments Sought

(details inside)

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United States
Environmental Protection
Agency
Region 5
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)
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Chicago, IL 60604-3590

