UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PROGRAM
PUBLIC NOTICE
AND
OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

Butte Highlands Joint Venture (Mine)
Section 31, Township 1N Range 7 W
Silver Bow County, Montana

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to solicit public comment on a proposal by the Region 8 Ground Water Program office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue an Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permit of authorization to inject in Class V Wells in Silver Bow County, Montana:

Permit No. MT52263-09862
Butte Highlands Joint Venture
S31, T1N, R7W
Silver Bow County, Montana

BACKGROUND

In December 2012, Timberline Resources submitted a permit application for permitting operation of an injection system for mine dewatering fluids disposal. Timberline Resources was required to apply for a permit in order to inject treated mine dewatering fluids during emergency situations. During normal mine operations, dewatering fluids are treated then discharged to surface water. If the treatment system were shut down for maintenance or other reasons, it will be necessary to dispose of the dewatering fluids into a subsurface injection trenches or to be pumped back into the mine. The permit will require monthly sampling for a range of constituents if injection should occur.

An application for a Permit was received on December 20, 2012. A Draft Permit has been prepared in accordance with provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) as amended (42 USC et seq) and other lawful standards and regulations. The EPA has made a preliminary determination that all underground sources of drinking water will be protected. The permit is issued for a ten (10) year Permit duration, unless modified or terminated. This Permit, once issued, will authorize to operate the injection wells. Operation of the well(s) will be governed by the requirements and conditions specified in the Permit.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The requirements and conditions of the Draft Permit are tentative, and are open to comment from any interested party. Persons wishing to comment upon or object to any aspect of proposal are invited to submit comments, IN WRITING, within 30 days of the Date of Publication found below:

Craig Boomgaard, P.G.
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ground Water Program, 8P-W-UIC
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129
Telephone: (800) 227-8917, extension 312-6794

The Administrative Record, including the application, the Draft Permit and Statement of Basis prepared by the EPA, and public comments received, is available for public inspection at the above location(s) weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Draft Permit and Statement of Basis will also be available on the Region 8 UIC webpage: http://www.epa.gov/region8/water/uic

PUBLIC HEARING

Within the thirty (30) day period, any interested person may request a public hearing as provided by 40 CFR §124.12. A request for a hearing must be made IN WRITING to the above address and must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised at the hearing. A public hearing will be held only if significant interest is shown.

FINAL PERMIT DECISION

All comments received within the thirty (30) day period will be considered in the Final decision. The decision may be to: issue, modify or deny the Permit. The Final decision shall become effective thirty (30) days after issuance unless no commenters requested changes to the Draft Permit, in which case the Permit shall become effective immediately upon issuance.

APPEALS

Within thirty (30) days after a Final decision has been issued, any person who filed comments on the Draft decision or who participated in a public hearing may petition the Administrator to review the final decision. Any person who failed to file comments or failed to participate in the public hearing may petition for administrative review only to the extent of the changes from the Draft to the Final Permit decision. Commenters are referred to 40 CFR §§ 124.15 through 124.20 for procedural requirements of the appeal process.

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Date of Publication