

### Comments welcome

You may comment on the draft permit in writing. Refer to Davis No. 1-19, MI-119-1I-C002.

Mail or email your comments to:

#### William Tong

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (WU-16J)  
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### Comment period

The Agency will accept written comments until Monday, **December 7, 2015** (midnight postmark).

### Information Repository

You may see the permit at:  
Atlanta Public Library,  
11901 Haymeadow, Atlanta, MI  
Or at <http://go.usa.gov/3JwFP>

### Administrative Record

You may see the full administrative record, including all data submitted by Northeastern Exploration, at EPA's Chicago office. To arrange an appointment, call William Tong at 312-866-9380.

### Right to Appeal

You have the right to appeal any final permit decision if you make an official comment during the comment period or participate in a public hearing. A public hearing is not planned at this time. The first appeal must be made to the Environmental Appeals Board. The final decision can be appealed in federal court only after all agency review procedures have been exhausted.

To learn more about EPA's Underground Injection Control program, or to join our mailing list, visit <http://go.usa.gov/3JwFP>.

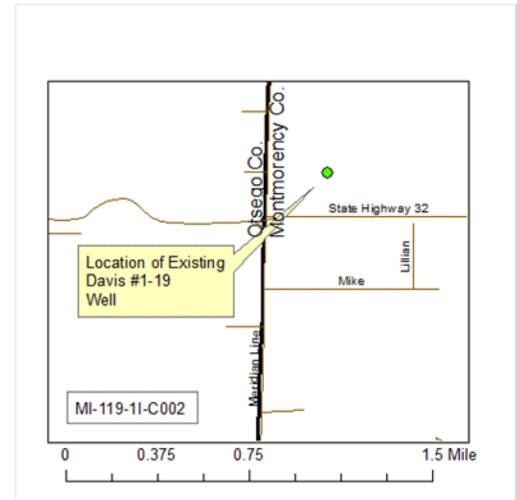
# EPA Seeks Comments on Draft Underground Injection Permit

## Northeastern Exploration, Inc.

Montmorency County, Michigan

November 2015

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to approve a request from Northeastern Exploration, Inc. of Johannesburg, Michigan for re-issuance of a permit to operate an existing well known as Davis No. 1-19 for the disposal of non-hazardous liquid waste. This well is a commercial Class I underground injection well.



Federal regulations require Class I wells to inject waste into an area below the deepest underground source of drinking water. All Class I wells must be cased and cemented to prevent the movement of fluids into or between underground sources of drinking water.

### Site geology

The injection zone for the existing well is the Dundee Limestone, from 2,365 feet to 2,710 feet below the surface. The immediate overlying confining zone is the Bell Shale. There are adequate confining layers between the injection zone and the deepest source of drinking water.

An underground source of drinking water is an aquifer or part of an aquifer that contains water with less than 10,000 milligrams per liter of total dissolved solids. In Montmorency County, the base of the deepest USDW is 820 feet below the surface – the Glacial Drift.

### Technical Information

**Facility Background:** Northeastern Exploration, Inc. seeks renewal of a permit to use this injection well to dispose of commercial non-hazardous wastes from off-site generators and industrial sources, as well as oilfield brine. The construction of the injection well meets the regulatory criteria of 40 C.F.R. §146.12.

(continued on reverse)

## Technical Information (continued)

**Area of Review (AOR):** The AOR is a circle of 2-mile radius from the injection well. Within that area, there are 2 producing wells, 7 injection wells, and 27 plugged and abandoned wells that penetrate the confining zone in the AOR. These wells are adequately constructed to protect underground sources of drinking water; no corrective action plan is required.

**Maximum Injection Pressure:** EPA sets a limit on injection pressure to prevent injection-formation fracturing. The maximum allowable injection pressure was calculated by EPA by factoring the depth of the injection zone, the highest specific gravity of the injected fluid, and the fracture gradient of the rock formation. The formula appears on Page A-1 of the draft permit. The proposed permitted maximum injection pressure shall be limited to 546 pounds per square inch gauge (psig).

**Financial Assurance:** Northeastern Exploration Inc. has demonstrated adequate financial resources to plug and abandon its injection well through a surety bond in the amount of \$33,000 with Lexon Insurance Company.

**Intent to Issue Permit:** Review of the permit application indicates no significant environmental impact should result from re-issuing this permit. In accordance with provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act and attendant regulations incorporated by the EPA under Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations at Parts 124, 144, 146, and 147, EPA intends to issue the permit for this well.

**Public Comments:** EPA seeks written comments on this draft permit decision. Comments must be e-mailed or postmarked by the date provided on the first page of this fact sheet. You may ask EPA to hold a public hearing on this draft permit decision in writing. EPA will hold a hearing if, based on requests, EPA determines that there is significant public interest. If a public hearing is scheduled, a notice of the hearing will be published at least 30 days in advance.

Part C of the SDWA specifically mandates regulation of the underground injection of fluids through wells to assure that the quality of the underground sources of drinking water is protected. Section 1421 of the SDWA requires the EPA to administer underground injection control (UIC) programs in the states which do not have approved UIC programs. Michigan has not acquired primacy over the UIC program for Class I injection wells, therefore EPA is administering the permit program pursuant to regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 147.