



EPA Public Hearing on Draft Underground Injection Permit

W.B. Osborn Oil & Gas Operations

Mecosta County, Michigan

December 2015

Public meeting & hearing

EPA is seeking further comments on the Smith 1-17 well, draft permit number MI-107-2D-0013.

Thursday, January 21

Public meeting

6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Public hearing

7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Chippewa Hills High School,
3226 Arthur Rd.
Remus

How to comment

New comments can be submitted by mail, email, or in person at the public hearing. If you already submitted a comment, you do not need to resubmit.

Send new comments to:

Ross Micham

U.S. EPA, Water Division

UIC Branch (WU-16J)

77 W. Jackson Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Email: micham.ross@epa.gov

New comment period

EPA will accept written comments until **Jan 28** (midnight postmark).

The original comment period ended in November.

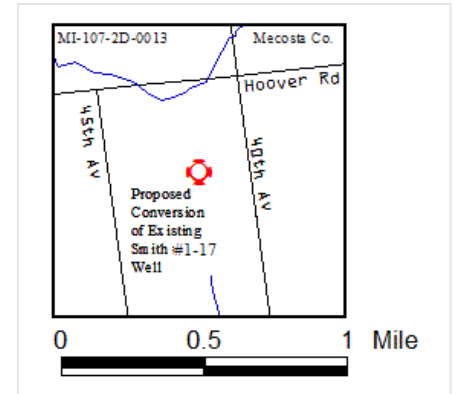
Right to appeal

You have the right to appeal any final permit decision if you make an official comment during the comment period or participate in the public hearing. The first appeal must be made to the Environmental Appeals Board.

On the Web

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

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to allow W.B. Osborn Oil & Gas Operations, 1250 NE Loop, Suite 600, San Antonio, Texas 78209 to inject fluid underground by approving the company's application for what EPA calls a Class II injection well permit.



If EPA makes its approval final, W.B. Osborn Oil & Gas Operations may inject brine into a rock formation 3860 feet below the surface through the Smith 1-17 injection well near Hoover Road and 40th Avenue in Fork Township of Mecosta County. W.B. Osborn Oil & Gas Operations has also applied for a permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

EPA received requests for a public hearing on this proposed permit approval. EPA will hold a public meeting and hearing Thursday, January 21 (*see box, left*). During the hearing, you will have an opportunity to make oral comments or submit written comments. EPA will consider all comments it receives, and then issue a final decision along with a response to the significant comments.

The new public comment period ends **Thursday, January 28**. This exceeds the required 30-day period and includes the additional three days for any delay caused by mailing.

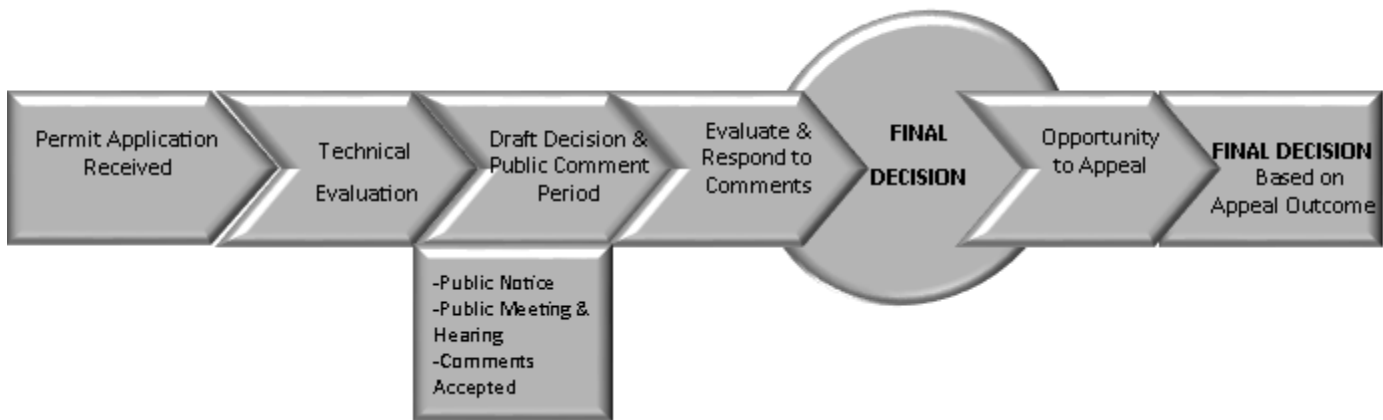
Legal authority

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires EPA to regulate the underground injection of fluids through wells to protect the quality of underground sources of drinking water. Issuing permits is one way EPA does this. You can find the regulations governing underground injection wells at Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 144 and 146.

EPA does not have the authority to change the surface location of the injection well. If you have questions or concerns about the well's location, contact the MDEQ, P.O. Box 30256, Lansing, Michigan 48909 and phone number (517) 241-1515.

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Figure 1: The permit process



... continued from front

What is the role of the EPA?

EPA must make sure that injection wells will not harm drinking water. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires companies that want to drill these wells to apply for and receive a permit from EPA. The permits include conditions to ensure that the wells will not have a negative impact on drinking water.

To make sure that the wells will not harm drinking water, EPA looks at a number of things, including:

- Location of underground drinking water sources
- Rock type and suitability for injection
- Wells in the area that may accidentally leak

EPA also looks at the way the well will be operated, including:

- Pressure used to inject the fluid in the well
- Monitoring the well when it is in use
- Closing the well when it is no longer in use

What is the permit process?

EPA must review the permit application and make sure it is complete. The application must meet the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements for this type of well. After reviewing the application, EPA issues a draft decision approving or denying the permit. The draft decision is announced for public comments.

Based on the comments, EPA may notify the public of a public meeting and hearing on the decision. At the public meeting EPA will provide information and answer questions about the permit. At the public hearing people can provide comments to EPA for the record. Comments can also be given in writing or by email.

EPA will review comments and then make a final decision. EPA will respond to all of the significant comments that were received. The final permit decision may be appealed to the Environmental Appeals Board by anyone who commented during the comment period or participated in the hearing.

More information available

You may view the draft permit and public hearing fact sheet at:

**Big Rapids Community Library,
426 South Michigan, Big Rapids, MI**

You may also view related documents at EPA's Chicago office. Please contact:

Ross Micham
312-886-4237
Micham.ross@epa.gov.

You may call toll-free, 800-621-8431, weekdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Or visit <http://go.usa.gov/3JwFP>