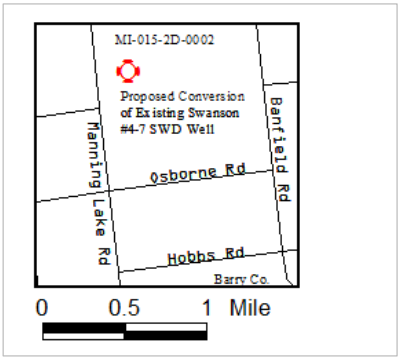
United States Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Seeks Comments on Draft Underground Injection Permit

Arbor Operating

Barry County, Michigan September 2016

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to allow Arbor Operating, 104 South Union Street, Traverse City, Michigan 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, Arbor Operating may inject brine into a rock formation 2000 feet below the surface through a well in Barry County. Arbor Operating has also applied for a permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

EPA is accepting comments from the public on this proposed permit approval (*see box, left*). The public comment period, which ends **Monday, October 24, 2016**, includes 30 days for comments as required by law, plus an additional three days for any delay caused by mailing.

During the comment period, you may ask EPA – in writing – to hold a formal public hearing (*see address, left*). Be sure to say specifically what issues you want to raise. EPA will hold a hearing if there is significant interest. If there is a hearing, EPA will publish a notice at least 30 days prior. 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 comments.

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) 284-6826.

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

How to Comment

You may comment on the proposed permit approval in writing. Please refer to Swanson 4-7 SWD, permit number MI-015-2D-0002

Mail or e-mail your comments to:
Ross Micham
U.S. EPA
UIC Branch (WU-16J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590
Email: micham.ross@epa.gov
Phone: (312) 886-4237

Comment Period

The Agency will accept written comments until **October 24** (midnight postmark).

Information Repository

You may see the draft permit, at:
Hastings Public Library,
227 E. State St.,
Hastings, MI 49058
Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.,
Friday: 9 a.m. to 6p.m.,
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.,
or at https://go.usa.gov/3JwFP.

Administrative Record

You may see the full administrative record, including all data Arbor Operating submitted, at the EPA's Chicago regional office (*address above*), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., weekdays. For an appointment to see the files, contact Ross Micham (*see above*).

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. A hearing is not planned at this time. The first appeal must be made to the Environmental Appeals Board.