The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to allow Energex Petroleum, Inc., 2105 Victoria Avenue, Windsor, ON N8X 1P8, Canada 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, Energex Petroleum, Inc. may inject gas for enhanced oil recovery into a rock formation 3988 feet below the surface through the Lanphar 1-12 injection well near Leonard and Dequindre Roads in Addison Township of Oakland County. Energex Petroleum Inc. 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, October 12 (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, October 19. 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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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:

Addison Township Public Library
1400 Rochester Rd., Leonard, Michigan

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

Anna Miller
(312) 886-7060
miller.anna@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