

EPA Seeks Comments on Injection Well Permit

Wexford Water Technologies LLC

Wexford County, Michigan

October 2017

How to Comment

You may comment on the proposed draft permit in writing. Please refer to Wexford Water Technologies draft permit number MI-165-11-0002.

Mail or email your comments to:

Andrew Greenhagen

U.S. EPA, Water Division
UIC Branch (WU-16J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590
Email: greenhagen.andrew@epa.gov
Phone: 312-353-7648

Comment Period

EPA will accept written comments until **November 22, 2017** (midnight postmark).

Information Repository

You may see the draft permit at:
Manton Public Library
404 W. Main St.
Manton, Michigan
Or at <http://go.usa.gov/3JwFP>.

Administrative Record

You may see the full administrative record, including all data submitted by Wexford Water Technologies LLC, at the EPA's Chicago regional office (*address above*), weekdays from 9am to 4pm. For an appointment to see the files, contact Andrew Greenhagen (*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 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.

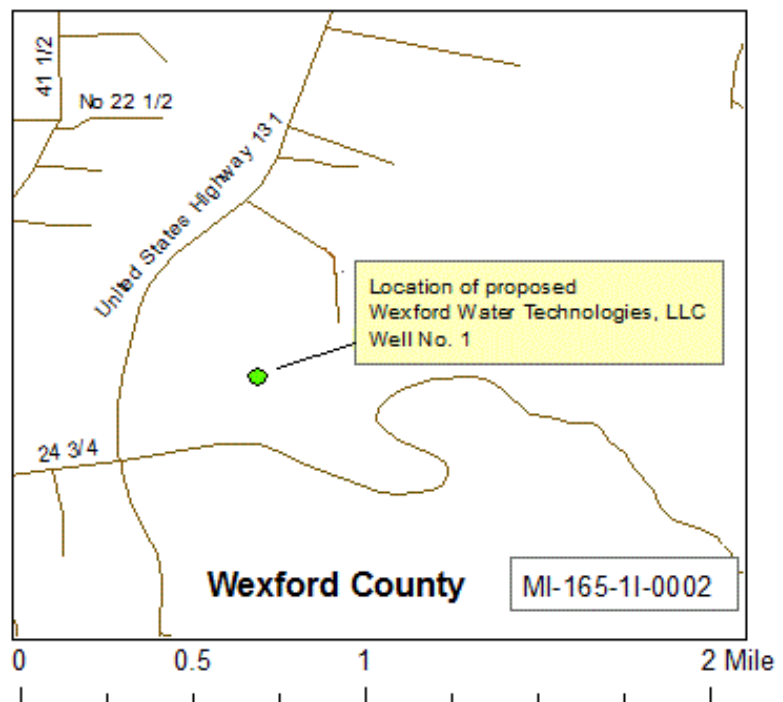
To learn more about EPA's Underground Injection Control program, or to join our mailing list visit <http://go.usa.gov/3JwFP>

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency tentatively approved a request from Wexford Water Technologies LLC for one Class I nonhazardous injection well permit. Before EPA makes a final decision, the Agency is providing the public an opportunity to comment on the draft permit (*see left-hand box on how to comment*).

Wexford Water Technologies LLC plans to dispose of nonhazardous liquid waste from the Wexford County Landfill. The company wants to drill and construct one injection well located at 990 N. US Highway 131 in Manton, Michigan.

Federal law requires all Class I wells be built in a way that protects drinking water supplies.¹ That means waste must be injected into a rock formation beneath the lowermost formation containing an underground drinking water source. All Class I wells shall be cased and cemented to prevent the movement of fluids into or between underground sources of drinking water.

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Map shows location of the proposed injection well in the city of Manton in Wexford County, Michigan.

¹Injection wells must meet the regulatory criteria of 40 Code of Federal Regulations, or C.F.R., sections 124, 144, 146, and 147; and the Safe Drinking Water Act, or SDWA. To view these regulations and laws, see <https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/regulations>.

Public comments and requests for a hearing

Send comments and requests for a hearing to EPA's Andrew Greenhagen (greenhagen.andrew@epa.gov) during the public comment period (*see front-page box*). The public comment period includes 30 days for comments as required by law, plus an additional three days for any delay caused by mailing.

Requests for a hearing must be in writing and must identify issues to be raised. EPA will hold a hearing if there is significant public interest in the draft permit decision based on written requests. If a hearing is scheduled, EPA will publish a notice of the hearing at least 30 days in advance.

EPA will consider all comments received during the comment period and the hearing if held and then issue a final decision along with a document that lists EPA responses to significant comments.

Permit requirements

Federal regulations for underground injection wells list standards for construction, geology, location (siting), operating conditions and record keeping, to protect supplies of underground drinking water from contamination caused by injection wells.

EPA's preliminary review of the permit application for this well concluded it would have no environmental impact.

Below is an explanation of the some of the factors involved in permitting injection wells:

Underground Source of Drinking Water (USDW):

An USDW is any aquifer or portion of an aquifer that contains less than 10,000 milligrams per liter of total dissolved solids and which can be used as a source of drinking water.

An aquifer is an underground layer of water-bearing rock or sand from which water can be extracted by a well.

In the case of the Wexford Water Technologies LLC proposed well, the base of the lowermost USDW sits at a depth of 890 feet. This water-bearing formation is the Bayport Limestone formation.

Site geology: The injection zone is the Traverse Limestone formation from 3,166 feet to 3,799 feet below the surface. The immediate overlying confining zone is the Antrim Shale formation which is composed primarily of shale. Adequate confining layers exist between the injection zone and the base of the lowermost Underground Source of Drinking Water.

Area of review (AOR): The AOR is the area within a two-mile radius of the proposed injection well. EPA analyzed the AOR to identify wells that might allow fluid to move out of the injection zone. In the AOR for the proposed well, there are 0 producing, 0 injection, 0 temporarily abandoned, and 1 plugged and abandoned wells that penetrate the confining zone.

Maximum injection pressure: EPA set an injection pressure limit that will prevent the injection formations from fracturing. The proposed maximum injection pressure for this well is limited to 1,038 pounds per square inch gauge.

Financial assurance: Wexford Water Technologies LLC has demonstrated adequate financial resources to close, plug and abandon this underground injection well. A state bond for \$33,000 has been established with the state of Michigan.