



*On November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, EPA started a 45-day public comment period related to the transfer of the Class II UIC Program from Idaho to EPA.*

**What is UIC?** Underground Injection Control (UIC) is a program established by the Safe Drinking Water Act to protect groundwater used for drinking water. Class II UIC wells are associated with oil and natural gas production.

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**What is the history behind this action?** In 1985, EPA approved Idaho’s application for primary permitting and enforcement authority over all injection wells in Idaho. This authority was codified in the federal regulations at 40 CFR Part 147, Subpart N. At that time, Idaho state regulations banned Class II wells, and this regulatory ban was incorporated as part of the federally-approved Class II program. Idaho has since revised its state regulations to remove the Class II ban, but EPA has not approved the change to Idaho’s federally-approved Class II UIC program; therefore, the state is not authorized to issue Class II permits. In August, 2017, Idaho formally requested that EPA administer the Class II program. Pursuant to this request, EPA is revising 40 CFR Part 147 Subpart N. By revising this rule, responsibility for the Class II program will transfer to EPA for permitting and enforcement of Class II wells in Idaho, in accordance with EPA’s Class II UIC regulations.

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**How can I submit comments to EPA?** All comments should be submitted to EPA using <https://www.regulations.gov/>. Enter “Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0584”, and then click the comment button. Alternatively, or in addition, you can give public testimony during the public hearing.

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**What can I comment on?** EPA is notifying the public of the transfer of the state of Idaho’s Class II UIC program from Idaho to EPA. EPA is not taking comment on the transfer, as the applicable regulations require only public notification of such transfer. The scope of comments is therefore limited to the proposed changes to EPA’s regulations (40 CFR Part 147, Subpart N) to reflect this transfer, as detailed in the Notice.

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**Will there be a public meeting?** Yes, EPA has scheduled a public hearing at the **Banner Bank Building, 950 W. Bannock Street, Boise, Idaho on January 8<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at 2:00 PM Mountain Time.

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**Where can I learn more?** Please see the Federal Register Notice (82 FR 55968, November 27, 2017) posted on EPA Region 10’s website: <https://www.epa.gov/uic/underground-injection-control-region-10-ak-id-or-and-wa>.

For more information on UIC, please see EPA’s website: [www.epa.gov/uic](http://www.epa.gov/uic).