

### Comments welcome

You may comment on the two draft permits for Republic Services, Newton County Landfill, underground injection wells No. IW-1 and No. IW-2, until the public comment period closes 3 days following the **virtual public hearing on April 7, 2021** (details on Page 2).

Email your comments to:

**William Tong**

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EPA Region 5

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**Phone:** (312) 886-9380

If you do not have access to email, please contact William Tong for instructions on how to comment.

Please refer to each EPA draft permit as follows:

**IN-111-11-0001 (Well No. IW-1)**

**IN-111-11-0002 (Well No. IW-2)**

If you want a written response, include a return mail or email address.

### Information Repository

You may see each EPA draft permit at:

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

### Administrative Record

To request review of administrative record files, contact William Tong (see above)

### Right to Appeal

To preserve your right to appeal any final permit decision, you must either send EPA written comments or participate in a public hearing that EPA has scheduled for March 17, 2021. The first appeal must be made to the Environmental Appeals Board.

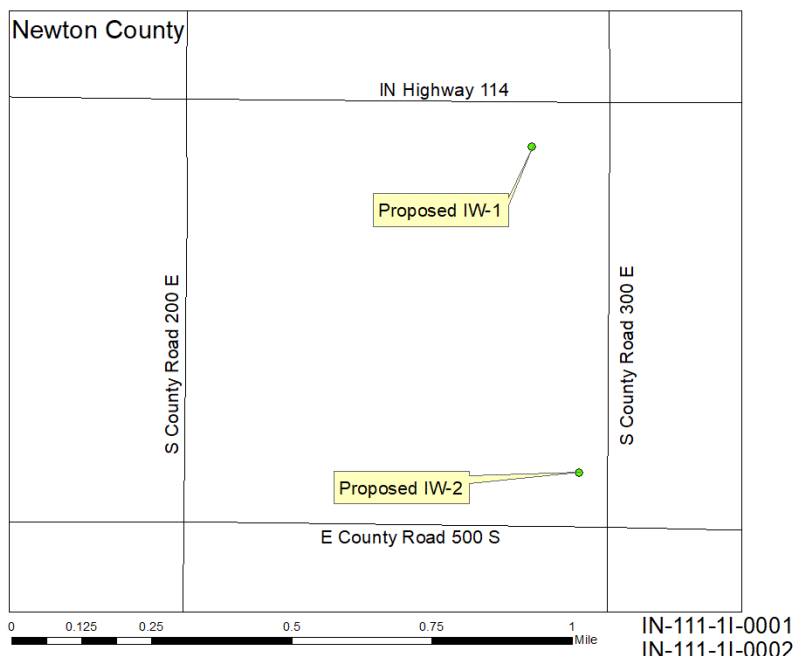
To learn more about EPA's Underground Injection Control program, or to join our mailing list, visit <http://go.usa.gov/3JwFP>

# EPA to Hold Public Hearing on Two Underground Injection Permits

## Republic Services, Newton County Landfill

Brook, Indiana

February 2021



Map of the locations of proposed underground injection wells

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to approve a request from Republic Services, Newton County Landfill of Brook, IN, for issuance of two Class I underground injection permits for two proposed new wells located within Newton County Landfill. The permits authorize the disposal of non-hazardous liquid waste from landfill leachate, landfill gas condensate, well maintenance and testing fluids, and storm water runoff generated at the facility.

Federal regulations require Class I wells to inject waste into an area below the deepest underground source of drinking water. All Class I wells must be cased and cemented to prevent the movement of fluids into or between underground sources of drinking water.

### Site geology

The injection zone for the two wells is the Mount Simon Sandstone, at the following injection intervals below the surface: Well No. IW-1 (3020' to 5000') and Well No. IW-2 (3020' to 5000'). The immediate overlying confining zone is the Eau Claire Formation, which is composed of shale. There are adequate confining layers between the injection zone and the deepest source of drinking water to prevent the movement of injected fluids into underground sources of drinking water.

An underground source of drinking water (USDW) is an aquifer or part of an aquifer that contains water with less than 10,000 milligrams per liter of total dissolved solids. In Newton County, the base of the deepest USDW is 790 feet below the surface – the Silurian-Devonian Aquifer.

## Technical Background

**Facility Background:** The proposed Class I non-hazardous waste injection wells are to be used for the disposal of non-hazardous liquid waste from landfill leachate, landfill gas condensate, well maintenance and testing fluids, and storm water runoff generated at the Newton County Landfill facility, located in Brook, Indiana. The construction design of the injection wells meet the regulatory criteria of 40 C.F.R. §146.22.

**Area of Review (AOR):** The AOR is a circle of 2-mile radius from each injection well. There are no other wells that penetrate the confining zone within the AOR of the two proposed Class I injection wells.

**Maximum Injection Pressure:** EPA has set a limit on injection pressure to prevent fracturing of the injection zone rock formation. The maximum allowable injection pressure for each well was calculated by EPA by factoring the depth of the injection zone, the highest specific gravity of the injected fluid, and the fracture gradient of the rock formation. The formula appears on Page A-1 of the draft permits. The calculated maximum permitted injection pressure is proposed to be 255 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) for Well No. IW-1, and 255 psig for Well No. IW-2.

**Financial Assurance:** Republic Services has demonstrated adequate financial resources to plug and abandon these wells, by way of a surety bond in the amount of \$257,000 established with Evergreen National Indemnity Company, of Mayfield Heights, Ohio.

**Intent to Issue Permits:** Review of the permit applications indicate no significant environmental impacts should result from issuing these two permits. In accordance with provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act and attendant regulations incorporated by EPA under Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations at parts 124, 144, 146, and 147, EPA intends to issue a permit for each of the wells. Part C of the SDWA specifically mandates regulation of the underground injection of fluids through wells to assure that the quality of the underground sources of drinking water is protected. Section 1421 of the SDWA requires the EPA to administer underground injection control (UIC) programs in the states which do not have approved UIC programs. Indiana has not acquired primacy over the UIC program for Class I injection wells, therefore EPA is administering the permit program pursuant to regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 147.

## VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

Due to significant public interest in these Class I permits, EPA will be conducting a virtual public meeting and public hearing, in two sessions.

**DATE: Wednesday, April 7, 2021**

**Morning Session: 8:30 to 11:00 AM** (Central Daylight Time)

**Evening Session: 5:30 to 8:00 PM** (Central Daylight Time)

**To join virtual public hearing via telephone, call: (866) 261-1562**

During the first hour of each session, there will be a virtual public meeting; EPA representatives will give a brief presentation and answer questions. During the 90-minute virtual hearing that follows, you may comment orally on the draft permit; EPA will listen, but will not respond to comments. EPA has extended the original deadline of December 21, 2020, for public comments to three days after the virtual public hearing. The extended public comment period ends three days after the public hearing at midnight of April 10. EPA will later issue a written Response to Comments addressing significant comments received during the original and extended draft permit comment periods. Submit comments in writing via email to:

**William Tong**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 5

Email: [Tong.william@epa.gov](mailto:Tong.william@epa.gov)