

# EPA Seeks Comments on Injection Well Permit

## How to Comment

You may comment on the proposed draft permit in writing. Please refer to H.J. Heinz Company draft permit number MI-139-11-0001& MI-139-11-0003

Email your comments to:

### Felicia Chase

U.S. EPA, Water Division  
UIC Section (WP-16J)  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590  
Email: [chase.felicia@epa.gov](mailto:chase.felicia@epa.gov)  
Phone: (312) 886-0240

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

## Comment Period

EPA will accept comments until **November 30, 2020**.

## Information Repository

You may see the draft permit at <http://go.usa.gov/3JwFP>.

## Administrative Record

To request review of Administrative Record files, contact Felicia Chase (*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.

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

## H.J. Heinz Company

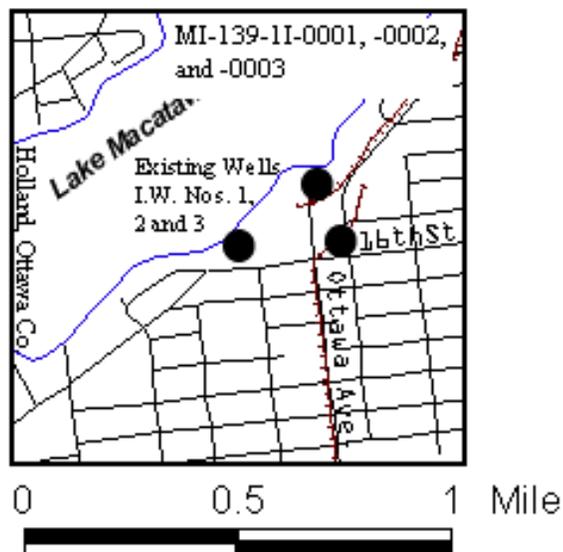
Ottawa County, Michigan

October 2020

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency tentatively approved the reissuance of two Class I nonhazardous injection well permits for H.J. Heinz Company. Before EPA makes a final decision, the Agency is providing the public an opportunity to comment on the draft permits (*see left-hand box on how to comment*).

H.J. Heinz Company plans to dispose of nonhazardous liquid waste from their Class I non-hazardous injection wells at the H.J. Heinz Company facility, located at T5N, R15W, Section 30, SE Quarter Section, Holland, Michigan. The injection fluid, which consists of wastewater from food production and wash water generated from cleaning of processing equipment and fluids associated with the testing and maintenance of the wells, will be injected into a confined intervals approximately 4606 feet and 4612 feet below ground surface.

Federal law requires all Class I wells be built in a way that protects drinking water supplies.<sup>1</sup> That means waste must be injected into a rock formation beneath the lowermost formation containing an underground



*Map shows location of the proposed injection well in Ottawa County, Michigan.*

<sup>1</sup>Injection 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>.

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.

## Public Comments and Hearing Requests

Send comments and requests for a hearing to EPA's Felicia Chase (chase.felicia@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.

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.

Be aware that the USEPA does not have the authority to change the surface location of the injection wells. Any issues regarding surface facilities, such as the location of the injection wells should be addressed to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). EGLE can be contacted at the following address: P.O. Box 30256, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7756 and phone number (517) 241-1515.

## 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 applications for these wells concluded they would have no environmental impact.

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

### Underground Source of Drinking Water

**(USDW):** A USDW is defined as any aquifer or portion thereof that contains less than 10,000 milligrams per liter of total dissolved solids and which is being or can be used as a source of drinking water. In the case of the H.J. Heinz Company well, the base of the lowermost USDW has been identified at depths of 225 feet and 400 feet below the ground surface. This water-bearing formation is the Glacial Drift.

**Site Geology:** The injection zone is the Munising Group and Mount Simon Sandstone that range from 4606 feet to 5028 feet and 4612 feet to 5032 feet below the surface. The immediate overlying confining zone is the Trempealeau Formation. Additional 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 wells. EPA analyzed the AOR to identify wells that might allow fluid to move out of the injection zone. In the AOR for the proposed wells, there are approximately 0 producing, 5 injection, 0 temporarily abandoned, 8 plugged and abandoned, and no other wells that penetrate the confining zone.

**Maximum Injection Pressure:** EPA set injection pressure limits that will prevent the injection formation from fracturing. The proposed maximum injection pressure for these wells are limited to 1111 pounds per square inch and 1112 pounds per square inch.

**Financial Assurance:** H.J. Heinz Company has demonstrated adequate financial resources to close, plug and abandon these underground injection wells. H.J. Heinz Company has established an Irrevocable Letter of Credit to cover these costs at the amount of \$157,600 each.