

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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NOTICE

**Seismicity Response Protocol Guidance for UIC Class II Disposal Wells with Injection
Suspended Greater Than Twelve Months**

As stipulated in the Seismicity Response Protocol, there were several wells which were required to suspend injection and remain shut-in. As part of the effort for continuous review of the Seismic Response Areas (SRAs), the Oil Conservation Division (OCD) is requesting operators with disposal wells that are shut-in and are following the conditions of the Underground Injection Condition (UIC) permit along with the requirements of 19.15.26 NMAC, to perform the following actions to prevent a loss of injection authority due to abandonment under 19.15.26.12(C) NMAC and the reclassification of the well as inactive under 19.15.5.9(B)(1)(a) NMAC while not risking additional seismic activity during the review.

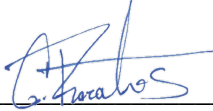
1. Inject no more than 100 barrels of produced water at least once a year but no more than twice a calendar year to show the well is still capable of beneficial purposes.
2. Once the injection has been completed the volumes will need to be reported accordingly:
 - As required on a Form C-115;
 - On a Daily Injection Report as part of the Response Protocol; and
 - On a Form C-103Z Subsequent Report detailing if the injection was a success or if injection failed along with reasons

This guidance also addresses the case for existing UIC Class II disposal wells that were required to suspend injection due to the location of the well within a SRA and have become subject to the abandonment of injection operation rule. Disposal wells in this group may conduct the injection activities previously detailed in this guidance to address the inactive status. Concurrently for those disposal wells which qualify under this guidance, the approval of this document by the Director shall be considered an administrative extension of the authority to inject for the qualified disposal well. This guidance shall be placed in the record for the qualified disposal well and the corresponding UIC permit as a demonstration of compliance with 19.15.26.12(C)(2) NMAC. All terms and conditions for the UIC permit of the qualified disposal well shall remain in full force and effect.

OCD continues to encourage operators to work with OCD and adjacent disposal operators to develop a long-term plan to manage seismicity in the individual SRAs based on all available information.

For more information or questions regarding this letter, please contact Justin Wrinkle, Engineering Bureau Chief, Justin.Wrinkle@emnrd.nm.gov, at (505) 670-0802. The SRAs can also be viewed in our Oil and Gas Map at <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/ocd/ocd-gis-and-maps/>.

Sincerely,



Gerasimos Razatos
Division Director (Acting)

11/25/2024

Date