

Fees for Underground Injection Control Program

Overview

House Bill 2118, passed by the 2007 Oregon Legislature, authorizes the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to charge fees for all Underground Injection Control Program authorizations and permits in Oregon. The fees generally range from \$100 to \$300, depending on the level of activity and environmental risk. Owners of multiple UIC systems and large onsite septic systems may qualify for a Water Pollution Control Facility permit.

UIC program background

The federal government started the Underground Injection Control Program in 1974 as means of implementing the Safe Drinking Water Act. The program's goal is to protect freshwater aquifers from contamination due to underground injection systems.

An underground injection system places fluids (for example, stormwater, septic effluent, treated drinking water and other fluids) below the ground. The most common UIC systems in Oregon are stormwater drywells, which are usually found on large parking lot surfaces. Large onsite septic systems, having a capacity greater than 2,500 gallons per day or serving 20 or more people, are also underground injection systems. Auto repair shops commonly used UICs in the past, but these UICs are now prohibited under federal regulations.

DEQ operates Oregon's UIC Program through authorization from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Under this program, DEQ issues permits to UIC system operators, handles enforcement of systems to make sure they are working properly, and conducts rule revisions when program changes are necessary. The program is administered under the Code of Federal Regulations title 40, parts 144 to 146.

2007 legislation

Because of inadequate funding and staffing resources, DEQ prepared to return the UIC program to EPA in 2006. The Oregon Environmental Quality Commission, however, directed DEQ to propose a fee schedule during the 2007 Legislative Session to bolster program resources. The proposal, HB 2118, won legislative support and passed in May 2007.

DEQ worked with the Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies and other stakeholders to develop a fee schedule. HB 2118 authorizes DEQ to collect the fees outlined in this fact sheet.

Fees

There are three categories of UIC fees for underground injection activities based on environmental risk and associated activity. These categories are simple, moderate and complex:

- **Simple: \$100 for each underground injection system (one-time fee).** Underground injection of fluids from a common roof drain (for example, roof drains from apartment buildings and commercial structures) and those injections not mixed with fluids from other sources determined to be an environmental risk to groundwater. This fee also applies to any decommissioning of an underground injection system.
- **Moderate: \$125 for each underground injection system (one-time fee).** Underground injection of fluids from a commercial or industrial facility or a public entity (such as a municipal facility) that injects fluids below the ground. This category includes, but is not limited to:
 - Operations of fewer than 50 injection systems;
 - Injections that do not involve storage and handling or use of hazardous materials;
 - Injection systems on properties or in streets where traffic volume is less than 1,000 vehicle trips a day;
 - Return fluids from common low-temperature geothermal systems used for heat exchange (for example, heat pumps);
 - Aquifer storage and recovery wells; and
 - Fluid injection for contaminated soil and groundwater remediation.



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Water Quality Division Community and Program Assistance

811 SW 6th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: (503) 229-5696
(800) 452-4011
Fax: (503) 229-6037
www.oregon.gov/DEQ

Contact: Paula Calvert
Phone: (503) 229-5101
calvert.paula@deq.state.or.us
www.oregon.gov/DEQ

DEQ UIC Website:
<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/uic/uic.htm>

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- **Complex: \$300 for each underground injection system for the first year and \$100 for each system each subsequent year.**

Includes any other injection system where conditions are complex or there is a higher risk for environmental degradation not described above.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Injection systems in areas that have 1,000 vehicle trips or more per day;
- Heavy-industry sites; and
- Sites where hazardous materials and petroleum products are stored, handled and/or dispensed (such as gas stations).

In rare cases, as in an underground injection system receiving high-temperature water from a geothermal facility, the fee is \$10,000 for each system for the first year and \$200 for each system for each subsequent year.

Fee processing

DEQ requires fees to be submitted with rule authorization applications, including the first-year annual fee for “complex” category UIC systems. DEQ invoices the annual fee of those who have rule authorizations that are considered to be “complex.”

For more information

For more details about DEQ’s Underground Injection Control Program and fees, please see DEQ’s website at:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/uic/uic.htm>.

Also, you may contact Paula Calvert, Portland, at 503-229-5101 or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5101.

Alternative formats

Alternative formats (Braille or large type) of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ’s Office of Communications & Outreach, Portland, at 503-229-5696, or call toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; fax to 503-229-6762; or email to deqinfo@deq.state.or.us

People with hearing impediments may call 711.