

General Information

Class V Injection Well Authorization for Disposal of Nonhazardous Brine Generated by a Desalination Operation or Nonhazardous Drinking Water Treatment Residuals

(for Injection into a Class II Injection Well that is also Permitted by the Railroad Commission of Texas)

Background and History

A growing economy and a growing population in Texas create an ever-increasing demand for water needed for agriculture, industry, and municipalities. An increasing number of water supply entities are looking at water treatment and desalination options to provide more water.

House Bill (HB) 2230, passed during the 84th Texas Legislature, 2015, provides the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) the ability to authorize an injection well that is used for oil and gas waste disposal permitted by the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) to be used for the disposal of nonhazardous brine generated by a desalination operation or nonhazardous drinking water treatment residuals (DWTR). HB 2230 took effect on September 1, 2015.

By having a less expensive and more easily authorized disposal alternative for the waste water, the practicality of drinking water treatment and desalination is greatly improved at reduced overall cost. The ability to use a permitted Class II well for disposal of wastes from treatment of brackish or other water using TCEQ's authorization allows water supply entities to increase water supplies with lower costs than are typically associated with traditional waste water disposal.

A local government (such as a city, county, water district, river authority, or utility district), or other public water supply, or an industrial user desalinating water for industrial uses may send nonhazardous DWTR or nonhazardous desalination concentrate for disposal by injection into an authorized Class II-Class V injection well.

Who Can Apply

A Class II injection well operator under the jurisdiction of the RRC, who has an active Form P-5 Organization Report in good standing with the RRC and a Class II well in active status, can seek authorization with the TCEQ to operate the Class II well as a Class V injection well.

How to Apply

Class II oil and gas well operators can use the link below to apply for a TCEQ Class V Injection Well Authorization:

[Application for a Class V Injection Well Authorization for Disposal of Nonhazardous Brine Generated by a Desalination Operation or Nonhazardous Drinking Water Treatment Residuals](#)

What Happens Next

In conjunction with a Class II Permit issued by the RRC, the TCEQ can issue a Class V Injection Well Authorization for disposal of nonhazardous brine generated by a desalination operation or nonhazardous drinking water treatment residuals.

Only after you have an active Form P-5 Organization Report in good standing with the RRC and a Class II RRC Permit in active status and the TCEQ Class V Injection Well Authorization has been issued, may you begin disposal operations.

TCEQ will issue a Class V Injection Well Authorization Letter and will attach a Reporting Worksheet, which is also available in the link below.

You will need to use the Reporting Worksheet to notify the TCEQ UIC Permits Section of any:

- Operational changes; and/or
- Status changes of injection activities (waste stream composition, RRC permit status, status of the RRC Form P-5 organization report, etc.).

You will also need to use the Reporting Worksheet to submit the following to the TCEQ UIC Permits Section:

- Semi-annual Status Report; and
- Semi-annual Summary Report.

[Reporting Worksheet for a Class V Injection Well Authorization for Disposal of Nonhazardous Brine Generated by a Desalination Operation or Nonhazardous Drinking Water Treatment Residuals](#)