

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Underground Injection Control Pre-Injection Unit Permit Streamlining

Fact Sheet

Rules under Title 30 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter (Ch) 331, Underground Injection Control, have been amended and repealed to remove the permitting and registration requirements for pre-injection units (PIUs) associated with nonhazardous, noncommercial injection wells regulated under Ch. 331.

PIUs associated with nonhazardous, noncommercial injection wells will continue to be regulated under the 30 TAC Section (§)331.5, Prevention of Pollution and §331.47, Pond Lining, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) solid waste regulations, 30 TAC Ch. 335, and the TCEQ's radioactive substance regulations, 30 TAC Ch. 336.

Who is impacted?

Permittees and registrants of PIUs associated with nonhazardous, noncommercial injection wells regulated under 30 TAC Ch. 331, Underground Injection Control.

What are the changes?

Effective January 7, 2021, PIUs associated with nonhazardous, noncommercial injection wells regulated under 30 TAC Ch. 331, Underground Injection Control, are no longer required to be permitted or registered under Ch. 331, Underground Injection Control.

How will the rule changes be implemented?

PIUs authorized by a permit

PIU provisions will be removed from a permit at the time of permit renewal or may be removed by submitting a minor amendment application.

PIUs authorized by a registration

Any existing PIU registration will expire at the end of its own term.

How to comply?

Prevention of pollution

PIUs associated with nonhazardous, noncommercial injection wells will continue to be regulated under the 30 TAC Ch. 331, Underground Injection Control, Subchapter A General Provisions, §331.5 Prevention of Pollution.

PIUs must be designed, constructed, operated, maintained, and closed so as not to cause 1) the discharge or imminent threat of discharge of waste into or adjacent to the waters in the state without obtaining specific authorization for such a discharge from the commission (TCEQ); 2) the creation or maintenance of a nuisance; or 3) the endangerment of the public health and welfare.

Pond Lining

All ponds or surface impoundments associated with underground injection wells will continue to be regulated under 30 TAC §331.47, Pond Lining. All holding ponds, emergency overflow ponds, emergency ponds, or other surface impoundments shall be lined with clay or an artificial liner and shall conform to applicable requirements of 30 TAC Ch. 335, Industrial Solid Waste and Municipal Hazardous Waste.

Continued authorization of PIUs

Owners of PIUs used to store, process, or dispose of industrial solid waste or municipal hazardous waste must comply with the TCEQ solid waste regulations in 30 TAC Chapter 335 including the applicable permitting requirements under 30 TAC §335.2 and the notification requirements under 30 TAC §335.6.

Owners of PIUs used to store or process waste generated from *in situ* mining of uranium must comply with the radioactive materials licensing requirements under 30 TAC Chapter 336, Radioactive Substance Rules.

Contact information

Please contact the TCEQ's Underground Injection Control Permits Section by phone at (512) 239-6466, or by email at UIC@tceq.texas.gov, with any questions you might have or if you would like to receive more information about the implementation of the rule changes.