



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

NEWS RELEASE

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION SETS WORKSHOPS FOR UNDERGROUND INJECTION REGULATIONS

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Conservation (DOC) will conduct three workshops in September to receive public input on plans to update oil and gas regulations. The regulations implement the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources' Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program.

“We are making a concerted effort to bring our UIC Program into full compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure public health and safety and environmental protection,” State Oil & Gas Supervisor Steven Bohlen said. “These workshops are part of an informal, pre-rulemaking process to update the regulations.”

The workshop schedule is as follows:

Los Angeles -- September 9, 1-4 p.m., Ronald Reagan State Building, 300 S. Spring Street Suite 1726.

Ventura – September 10, 9 a.m.-noon, Beach Marriott, 2055 Harbor Boulevard.

Bakersfield – September 15, 1-4 p.m., Four Points by Sheraton, 5101 California Avenue.

The Division also is inviting written input about the issue (more background can be found [here](#)).

Comments can be mailed to the Department of Conservation, Attention: UIC Workshop, 801 K St. MS 24-02, Sacramento, CA, 95814. The Division strongly encourages comments to be submitted by September 15. Comments submitted at a later date will be considered for the development of draft regulations if time permits. The Division's intent is to commence a formal rulemaking process by the end of this year or the beginning of 2016. Additional comment periods and public hearing will be a part of the rulemaking process.

The Division will provide a brief presentation regarding the UIC Program and its goals for this rulemaking at each workshop, but the primary purpose of the meetings is to receive input from the public on the six major regulatory goals outlined in the discussion paper linked above:

- ◆ Clarifying the standards for ensuring zonal isolation of injection projects (zonal isolation means keeping various materials, such as oil and groundwater, separated).
- ◆ Expressly defining the quality of water to be protected when constructing wells.

- ◆ Codifying best practices for well construction.
- ◆ Establishing permitting and regulatory requirements specific to cyclic steam operations.
- ◆ Establishing requirements specific to cyclic steam in diatomite formations. This effort will include a regulatory framework for responding to surface expressions (oil leaking to the ground's surface) and clarification regarding injection above fracture gradient (that is, at a high enough pressure to break the surrounding rock in the underground formation).
- ◆ Clarifying the process and standards for establishing maximum allowable surface pressure for injection operations.

Members of the public who wish to be on the mailing list for UIC-related rulemakings can utilize the following link to join: <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/index/Pages/MailingLists.aspx>.

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