



INVENTORYING SHALLOW INJECTION WELLS IN IDAHO SUMMARY FOR POTENTIAL PARTNERS INTERESTED

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) has primacy to inventory all shallow injection wells in Idaho. In some areas of Idaho, IDWR has delegated partial authority to inventory shallow injection wells to local entities that are working to protect local groundwater quality. By entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with IDWR, these entities have increased their capacity to help protect the groundwater resources in their service areas. Entities interested in developing long term, symbiotic relationship with IDWR to inventory shallow injection wells in their service are encouraged to should contact IDWR for additional information.

What is a Shallow Injection Well?

A shallow injection well is any excavation or artificial opening less than eighteen feet deep and is: 1) it is bored, drilled, dug, or driven and, 2) it is intended to be used for the permanent disposal of, or temporary storage of fluids in the subsurface. The term “well” may be misleading because most people envision a cylindrical shaft drilled into the ground. This is generally correct and some of these “wells” are used for injection. However, a majority of the shallow injection wells in Idaho are infiltration trenches, infiltration galleries, or seepage beds that are longer and wider than they are deep. Currently, there are more than 13,000 shallow injection wells in Idaho with the vast majority (94%) of these being used in residential sub-divisions or commercial office parks for the disposal of excess rain-water or snowmelt from paved areas.

Inventory Process

The shallow injection well inventory process begins when an applicant submits a Shallow Injection Well Inventory Form. This form asks for legal contact information from the owner, well location information, well construction details, and information pertaining to the type of fluid being injected into the well. For each individual shallow injection well there is a \$75 fee to be submitted with the inventory form.

The participating entity will enter this information into an electronic database, maintain the database, and periodically submit this data to IDWR to be appended to the shallow injection well database for the State of Idaho. One-third of \$75 inventory fee will be sent to IDWR and two-thirds will be kept by the participating entity to be used as they see fit.

Parties that enter into a MOU with IDWR will receive technical support and training, if required, in the use of databases to ensure the long term reliability of the database. IDWR will also work closely with the entity to ensure the applications are reviewed properly in order to identify omitted data that would result in an incomplete application.

Contact Information

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