

Underground Injection Control: Which Permit is Right for Me?



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Background

DEQ's Underground Injection Control Program is responsible for regulating the construction, operation, permitting, and closure of injection devices, commonly drywells, that place fluids underground for stormwater disposal.

UIC Permit Requirements

UICs must be authorized by DEQ. There are three ways to authorize stormwater UICs in Oregon: Authorization by 1) Rule, 2) General Permit, or 3) Individual Permit. Generally, Authorization by Rule is intended for owners or operators with only a few UICs, a General Permit is intended for owners or operators with under 25 UICs, and the UIC Individual Permit is usually for owners and operators with over 25 UICs.

Rule Authorization

Rule Authorization is a term used by DEQ for UIC systems that are registered, reviewed, and found not to have detrimental impact on groundwater quality, and that meet all other DEQ, state, and federal requirements. Rule Authorization is for UICs that are more than 500 feet away from a water well and outside of the two-year time-of-travel of a water well. A typical example of a facility with Rule Authorized UICs would be a store with a large parking lot with 4 or 5 UICs present to help manage stormwater runoff.

Costs for Rule Authorization range from \$107 per UIC to \$321 per UIC plus a \$107 annual fee depending on environmental risks such as number of vehicle trips per day and whether hazardous materials are stored on site.

WPCF General Permit

In 2015, DEQ released the WPCF General Class V Stormwater UIC Permit, referred to as the UIC General Permit, or 1200-U. The General Permit authorizes UICs that are located within 500 feet of water wells or are located within a two-year time-of-travel of a water well, provided the UIC owner can show that the UIC is protective of the water well. The General Permit is intended for owners and operators of UIC systems that operate less than 25 UICs.

Costs for the General Permit include \$133 per low risk, \$167 per medium risk, and \$401 per high risk UIC, plus \$133 per high risk UIC annual fee, plus a \$745 application fee and a \$765 annual fee.

WPCF Individual Permit

The WPCF Individual Class V Stormwater Permit, or Individual Permit, authorizes UICs that are located within 500 feet of water wells or are located within a two-year time-of-travel of a water well, provided the UIC owner can show that the UIC is protective of the water well. The Individual Permit is intended for owners and operators of more than 25 UICs.



Sampling a UIC

Costs for the WPCF Individual Permit are \$16,601 application fee, and a \$3,514 annual fee.

Additional information regarding all three stormwater permit types are available at <http://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/wqpermits/Pages/UIC.aspx>

For more information please email the UIC Program at: uic@deq.state.or.us

Alternative formats

Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

Underground Injection Control Program

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DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.