

## Underground Injection Control: Which Permit is Right for Me?

### Background

DEQ's Underground Injection Control (UIC) 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 \$100 per UIC to \$300 per UIC plus a \$100 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 rule authorization costs (see above) plus a \$543 application fee and a \$557 annual fee.



*Sampling a UIC (Oregon DEQ, 2016)*

### 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.

Costs for the WPCF Individual Permit are \$12,086 application fee, and a \$2,558 annual fee.

Additional information regarding all three stormwater permit types are available at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/uic/uic.htm>

### For more information please contact:

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### Alternative formats

Alternative formats of this document can be made available. For more information call 503-229-5696, in Portland, or call toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696. Hearing-impaired persons may call 711.



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