

Respondent	Number of facilities	Burden hours	Annual burden hours
Department of Energy	40	1,002	40,080
Elemental Phosphorous	3	268	804
Non-DOE not licensed by NRC	20	40	800
Phosphogypsum Stacks	20	132	2,640
Phosphogypsum Stacks	10	100	1,000
Underground Uranium Mines	10	300	3,000
Uranium Mill Tailings Piles, Subpart T	19	96	1,824
Uranium Mill Tailings Piles, Subpart W	10	56	560
Total	132	1994	50,708

It is estimated that 132 facilities would be required to report emissions and/or effective dose equivalent annually and retain supporting records for five years. Estimated annualized capital/start up costs are: \$45,000 and the annual operation and maintenance costs are: \$1,744,950.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Send comments regarding these matters, or any other aspect of the information collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the address listed above.

Dated: August 19, 1998.

Frank Marcinowski,

Acting Director, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air.

[FR Doc. 98-23081 Filed 8-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6151-6]

Underground Injection Control Program: Substantial Modification to an Existing State-Administered Underground Injection Control Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Request for public comment on a Substantial Modification to the Wyoming 1422 Underground Injection Control Program.

SUMMARY: The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) establishes the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program, which is designed to protect present and future underground sources of drinking water (USDWs) and to prevent underground injection through wells that may endanger these drinking water sources. The SDWA provides for states to apply for and receive approval from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to administer their own UIC programs, if the State regulations and statutes meet EPA's minimum requirements as specified in 40 CFR Part 144, 145, and 146 or the "protective" standard specified in § 1425 of the SDWA for oil and gas related wells. One of these requirements specified in 40 CFR 144.7 is the identification of (USDWs). If an aquifer is a USDW, injection into it can only occur if it is exempted from this classification because it is not serving a drinking water system and is not expected to do so in the future. Therefore, injection into any aquifer that meets the classification as a USDW can only take place if it is exempted from the classification as a USDW. Criteria for exempting aquifers is in Title 40 § 146.4. Certain exemptions are considered substantial program revisions.

Once the State program receives final approval, subsequent modifications to the programs can be requested by the State and accomplished through the specifications under 40 CFR 145.32. Upon receiving a request for modification of a State program, EPA determines if the requested modification is "substantial" or "non-substantial." A request for an aquifer exemption is one type of program modification that can be requested by the State. An aquifer exemption request often accompanies a draft permit for an injection well that will inject into a USDW that can be proven to meet criteria specified in 40 CFR 146.4. If the aquifer exemption is

considered a "non-substantial" modification to the existing State program, then it can be evaluated and approved or disapproved by the EPA Regional Administrator. However, if the aquifer proposed for exemption contains formation fluids with less than 3,000 mg/l Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) which is related to any Class I well or is not related to action on a permit (except in the case of rule authorized enhanced recovery operations in oil fields), then the aquifer exemption represents a "substantial" modification to the State program. In this case, according to 40 CFR 145.32, the proposed program revision shall be published in the **Federal Register** to provide the public an opportunity to comment for a period of at least 30 days. The authority to approve or disapprove the proposed change lies with the EPA Administrator. The proposed substantial revision to the Wyoming 1422 UIC program for which public comments are being solicited is a request for the exemption of 0.04 square miles of the Lance Formation at an approximate depth of 3,800 to 6,500 feet below ground surface surrounding two non-hazardous Class I injection wells in the Powder River Basin within Johnson County, Wyoming.

Public comments are encouraged and a public hearing will be held upon request. A request for a public hearing should be made in writing and should state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised at the hearing. A public hearing will be held only if significant interest is shown.

DATES: EPA must receive public comment, in writing, on the proposed modification of the Wyoming 1422 program by September 28, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Valois Shea-Albin, Ground Water Unit (8P-W-GW), Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, 999 18th Street, Suite 500, Denver, Colorado, 80202-2466, by the deadlines provided above. Copies of the application and pertinent materials are available for review by the public between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday at the following locations:

Environmental Protection Agency,
Region VIII, Ground Water Unit, 4th
Floor Terrace, 999 18th Street,
Denver, CO 80202-2466;
and

Department of Environmental Quality,
Herschler Building, 122 West 25th
Street, Cheyenne, WY 82002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Valois Shea-Albin, US EPA Region VIII,
8P-W-GW, 999 18th Street, Suite 500,
Denver, CO 80202, (303) 312-6276.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

In October, 1997, COGEMA Mining, Inc., (COGEMA) and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) requested that EPA grant an aquifer exemption for the Lance Formation in the areas encompassed by a radius of 1,320 feet surrounding two Class I non-hazardous injection wells, the COGEMA DW No. 1 and the Christensen 18-3, in Johnson County, WY. The proposed injection intervals are 3,818 to 6,320 feet and 4,009 to 6,496 feet in depth below ground surface, respectively. The total area of the Lance Formation included in the proposed exemption is 0.4 square miles.

The Lance Formation fluids contain less than 3,000 mg/l Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), dictating that this aquifer exemption be a substantial revision of the WY 1422 Underground Injection Control (UIC) program according to procedures listed in UIC Guidance #34, Guidance for Review and Approval of State UIC Programs and Revisions to Approved State Programs. The aquifer proposed for exemption has been determined by WDEQ to be too deep to be considered as an economically feasible source of drinking water. EPA has examined the aquifer exemption request, the accompanying information, and responses from WDEQ and COGEMA to EPA concerns, and, for reasons described herein, recommends approval of this aquifer exemption.

II. Background

COGEMA operates the Christensen Ranch in-situ leaching uranium mine within the Wasatch Sandstone Formation in Johnson and Campbell Counties, WY. The Wasatch Formation overlies the Lance Formation by about 2,600 feet at the mine site. The mining operation has comprised five well fields to date, two of which are currently producing, and three that have been mined out. The operation has reached the phase where large scale restoration of the groundwater within the mined

out well fields is being conducted simultaneously with mineral extraction.

Groundwater restoration is conducted to return the groundwater affected by mining to its baseline condition or to a condition consistent with its pre-mining or potential use upon completion of mining activities. After the restoration process is completed, the concentrations of contaminants are reduced to levels below drinking water standards. For the successful restoration of the groundwater quality within the mine-out areas of the Wasatch Formation, a wastewater disposal capacity of 300 to 500 gallons per minute (gpm) will be required over the next 18 years. Additionally, this type of operation requires the bleed-off of part of the fluid extracted in order to keep underground water flow into the mining area and prevent the contamination of adjacent aquifers in the Wasatch Formation. To date COGEMA has managed disposal of the fluid wastes under an NPDES permit to discharge to the surface, and through using evaporation ponds and limited non-hazardous Class I injection well disposal. The regulatory reduction of the selenium level permitted under NPDES will force COGEMA to discontinue surface discharge in the near future. After evaluating treatment methods to remove selenium from the wastewater in order to continue surface discharge, COGEMA found that reverse osmosis was the only method that consistently met the new selenium standard. The reverse osmosis process would treat 75% of the waste stream resulting in water of high enough quality for surface discharge. However, the high volume of remaining concentrated brine produced by the reverse osmosis process would still require the use of the two Class I injection wells and the aquifer exemption.

COGEMA was previously granted an aquifer exemption for the above wells to inject into the Teckla, Parkman, and Teapot Formations (between 3,000 and 10,000 TDS, containing traces of oil and gas, and too deep to be an economically feasible source of drinking water). The original exempted interval for the COGEMA DW No. 1 was 7,500 to 8,470 feet in depth and 7,631 to 8,604 feet in depth for the Christensen 18-3. Trial injection into these formations revealed they were only capable of receiving less than 10 gpm instead of the 75 to 150 gpm anticipated from the evaluation of porosity logs. As a result, the company has now requested a permit modification to inject into the Lance Formation, an overlying geologic unit.

III. Injectate

The injectate will consist of operational bleed streams from commercial in-situ leaching uranium mining operations as well as fluids from the restoration of the aquifer. The constituents on the injectate include the following process and restoration bleed streams: normal overproduction (well field bleed) streams, laboratory wastewater, reverse osmosis brine, and groundwater sweep solutions. The bleed streams are defined as non-hazardous, and as beneficiation wastes exempt from regulation under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act as stipulated by the Bevill Amendment (40 CFR 261.4(b)(7)).

IV. Basis for Approval of Proposed Aquifer Exemption

The information provided by COGEMA in the reports included in the docket adequately addresses the requirements of 40 CFR 146.4 supporting approval of the proposed aquifer exemption request for the Lance Formation.

Approximately 30 miles to the west, the Lance outcrops to the surface and wells developed there are for livestock use. Five wells jointly completed in the Lance and Fox Hills formations formerly served as public water supplies to the municipalities of Midwest and Edgerton, WY, 30 miles southwest of the proposed exemption area until 1997. At that time, the wells were abandoned because of low water productivity (40 gpm sustainable flow) and the expense of treatment that would be required to continue using these wells as a public water supply. The towns of Midwest and Edgerton have determined that piping in pre-treated water 50 miles from Casper is more economically feasible, especially with the addition of some financial incentives, than continuing operation of the wells completed in the Lance/Fox Hills formations, even at the relatively shallow depth of 1,500 to 2,000 feet. Therefore, the Lance is no longer supplying water to a public drinking water system within 30 miles of the proposed aquifer exemption area.

The Midwest-Edgerton public water supply scenario should be noted as the most compelling support for the approval of this aquifer exemption request and the feasibility of using the Lance Formation as a public water supply. The five wells were abandoned in favor of piping in an alternative water supply. The decision to abandon these wells was based on the economic impact of the need to treat the water and the low production rates of the wells,

even though the costs of development had already been expended, and the wells tapped shallower portions of the Lance Formation compared to the proposed aquifer exemption area (page 13, April 17, 1998, COGEMA report).

The Lance Formation will probably never again be considered to be an economically feasible source of drinking water in the area of the proposed aquifer exemption because of the great depth, low water production capacity, and treatment costs that will be necessary based on the Midwest-Edgerton wells. The cost of developing the Lance Formation as a drinking water supply within the proposed aquifer exemption area is high compared to that of developing shallow, more prolific, and higher quality sources of drinking water. Other regional aquifers, the Wasatch and Fort Union Formations for example, are better suited for development in this area as a source of drinking water due to higher producing capability, significantly better water quality, and no water treatment costs.

VI. Regulatory Impact

There will be no modification in regulations, either in the Code of Federal Regulations or Wyoming DEQ Water Quality Rules and Regulations, as a result of this proposed program modification.

Dated: August 19, 1998.

D. Edwin Hogle,

Director, Groundwater Program, Office of Partnerships and Regulatory Assistance, Region VIII.

[FR Doc. 98-22897 Filed 8-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6153-3]

Notice of Third Meeting of the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; announcement meeting.

SUMMARY: Third Meeting of the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force.

TIME AND DATE: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., September 24, 1998.

PLACE: DoubleTree Hotel, 7901 24th Avenue South, Bloomington, MN; (612) 854-2244.

STATUS: Open to the public, limited only by the space available. The room accommodates approximately 125 people.

PURPOSE: The Task Force consisting of Federal, State, and Tribal members, leads efforts to coordinate and support nutrient management and hypoxia related activities in the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico watersheds.

MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED: Agenda items include development of a strategy for implementing short-term, win-win implementation activities and longer term broader goals and activities, progress in involving the Governors of the Mississippi River Basin, and discussion of preliminary findings of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources' Hypoxia Science Assessment teams. The public will be afforded an opportunity to provide input during open discussion periods.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dr. Mary Belefski, U.S. EPA, Assessment and Watershed Protection Division (AWPD), 401 M Street, S.W. (4503F), Washington, D.C. 20460, telephone (202) 260-7061; Internet: belefski.mary@epamail.epa.gov.

Dated: August 21, 1998.

Robert Wayland,

Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds.

[FR Doc. 98-23082 Filed 8-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6153-4]

National Drinking Water Advisory Council Benefits Working Group; Notice of Open Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Under section 10(a)(2) of Public Law 92-423, "The Federal Advisory Committee Act," notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Benefits Working Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. S300f et seq.), will be held on September 25, 1998 from 8:30 AM until 5:00 PM (approximate), in the Lee Room of the Ramada Plaza Hotel—Old Town, 901 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. The meeting is open to the public, but due to past experience, seating will be limited.

The purpose of this meeting is to analyze relevant issues and facts that relate to the development of a new framework for benefits estimation in the rulemaking process. Specific issues to be addressed in this meeting include the

consideration of qualitative information and the comparison of cost to benefits information. The working group members will be asked to provide advice and recommendations to the Agency, through the full National Drinking Water Advisory Council, on these and other issues. The meeting is open to the public to observe and statements will be taken from the public as time allows.

For more information, please contact, John Bennett, Designated Federal Officer, Benefits Working Group, U.S. EPA, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (4607), 401 M Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20460. The telephone number is 202-260-0446, fax 202-260-3762, and e-mail address bennett.johnb@epamail.epa.gov.

Dated: August 17, 1998.

Charlene E. Shaw,

Designated Federal Officer, National Drinking Water Advisory Council.

[FR Doc. 98-23083 Filed 8-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission

August 20, 1998.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.