

# Fees for Underground Injection Control Program



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

## Overview

House Bill 2118, passed by the 2007 Oregon Legislature, authorizes the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to charge fees for all Underground Injection Control Program authorizations and permits in Oregon. The fees range from \$107 to \$321, depending on the level of activity and environmental risk. Owners of multiple UIC systems and large onsite septic systems may qualify for a Water Pollution Control Facility permit.

## UIC Program background

The federal government started the Underground Injection Control Program in 1974 as means of implementing the Safe Drinking Water Act. The program's goal is to protect freshwater aquifers from contamination due to underground injection systems.

An underground injection system places fluids (for example, stormwater, septic effluent, treated drinking water and other fluids) below the ground. The most common UIC systems in Oregon are stormwater drywells, which are usually found on large parking lot surfaces.

Large onsite septic systems, having a capacity greater than 2,500 gallons per day or serving 20 or more people, are also underground injection systems. Auto repair shops commonly used UICs in the past, but these UICs are now prohibited under federal regulations.

DEQ operates Oregon's UIC Program through authorization from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Under this program, DEQ issues permits to UIC system operators, handles enforcement of systems to make sure they are working properly, and conducts rule revisions when program changes are necessary. The program is administered under the Code of Federal Regulations title 40, parts 144 to 146.

## 2007 Legislation

Because of inadequate funding and staffing resources, DEQ prepared to return the UIC program to EPA in 2006. The Oregon Environmental Quality Commission, however, directed DEQ to propose a fee schedule during the 2007 Legislative Session to bolster program resources. The proposal, HB 2118, won legislative support and passed in May 2007.

DEQ worked with the Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies and other stakeholders to develop a fee schedule. HB 2118 authorizes DEQ to collect the fees outlined in this fact sheet.

## Fees

There are three categories of UIC fees for underground injection activities based on environmental risk and associated activity. These categories are low, moderate and high risk:

**Low risk: \$107 for each underground injection system (one-time fee).** Underground injection of fluids from a common roof drain (for example, roof drains from apartment buildings and commercial structures) and those injections not mixed with fluids from other sources determined to be an environmental risk to groundwater. Because there are no requirements for roof runoff in the OARs, DEQ has made a policy decision that owners of UICs that drain single family residential roofs do not need to be registered (note that commercial, industrial, and multifamily residential roof runoff must be registered). This fee also applies to any decommissioning of an underground injection system.

## Moderate risk: \$134 for each underground injection system (one-time fee).

Underground injection of fluids from a commercial or industrial facility or a public entity (such as a municipal facility) that injects fluids below the ground. This category includes, but is not limited to:

- Operations of fewer than 50 injection systems;
- Injections that do not involve storage and handling or use of hazardous materials;
- Injection systems on properties or in streets where traffic volume is less than 1,000 vehicle trips a day;
- Return fluids from common low- temperature geothermal systems used for heat exchange (for example, heat pumps);
- Aquifer storage and recovery wells; and
- Fluid injection for contaminated soil and groundwater remediation.

**High risk: \$321 for each underground injection system for the first year and \$107 for each system each subsequent year.**

## UIC Program

700 NE Multnomah St., Suite 600  
Portland, OR 97232  
Phone: 503-229-5696  
800-452-4011  
Fax: 503-229-6762

[www.oregon.gov/DEQ](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ)

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Includes any other injection system where conditions are complex or there is a higher risk for environmental degradation not described above.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Injection systems in areas that have 1,000 vehicle trips or more per day;
- Heavy-industry sites; and
- Sites where hazardous materials and petroleum products are stored, handled and/or dispensed (such as gas stations).

## **Fee Processing**

DEQ requires fees to be submitted with rule authorization applications, including the first- year annual fee for “complex” category UIC systems. DEQ invoices the annual fee of those who have rule authorizations that are considered to be “complex.”

### **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](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).