



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

JAN 31 1982

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: ReInjection of Water Produced in the Recovery of Gas from Storage Field- Region V and State of Illinois UIC Well Classification Advisory #3

FROM: Thomas E. Belk, Chief, *Thomas E. Belk*
Ground Water Protection Branch
Office of Drinking water

TO: Chris Kamath, Senior Petroleum Engineer,
Ground Water Protection Section, Region V

We are responding to your phone request to clarify the classification of wells associated with natural gas storage. We have received other similar requests and we shall try to respond to several situations.

You have spoken of Gas storage fields in the Mt. Simon formation. We understand that the gas is produced elsewhere and is brought in by pipeline and stored in the subject field. When the stored gas is recovered, it contains some water. To aid in the removal of the water, a chemical agent is added to the gas as it is removed from storage. After the water is separated from the gas, the water is treated to remove the chemical for reuse. The water after treatment is then reinjected into the formation for disposal and to maintain pressure in the formation. It is our understanding that only trace amounts of the chemical remain in the water, and that the chemical or chemicals are not hazardous wastes as defined.

It is clear that the injection wells are not associated with the production of oil or gas. Gas storage wells are not regulated by the UIC program. The injection well is injecting a nonhazardous waste below the lowermost USDW and therefore is a Class I well.

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