

EPA Seeks Comments on Injection Well Permits

How to Comment

You may comment on the proposed draft permits by email. Please refer to Ottawa County Landfill, Inc. draft permit numbers MI-139-11-0007 and MI-139-11-0008

Email your comments to:
Allan Batka
U.S. EPA, Water Division
UIC Section (WP-16J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590
Email: batka.allan@epa.gov
Phone: 312-353-7316

If you do not have access to email please contact Allan Batka for instructions on how to comment.

Comment Period

EPA will accept email comment until midnight **January 27, 2021**

You may see the draft permits at <http://go.usa.gov/3JwFP>.

Administrative Record

To request review of Administrative Record files, contact Allan Batka (*see above*)

Right to Appeal

You have the right to appeal final permit decision if you make official comment during the comment period or participate in a public hearing. A public hearing is not planned at this time. The first appeal must be made to the Environmental Appeals Board. The final decision can be appealed in federal court only after all agency review procedures have been exhausted.

To learn more about EPA's Underground Injection Control program, or to join our mailing list visit <http://go.usa.gov/3JwFP>

Ottawa County Landfill, Inc.

Ottawa County, Michigan

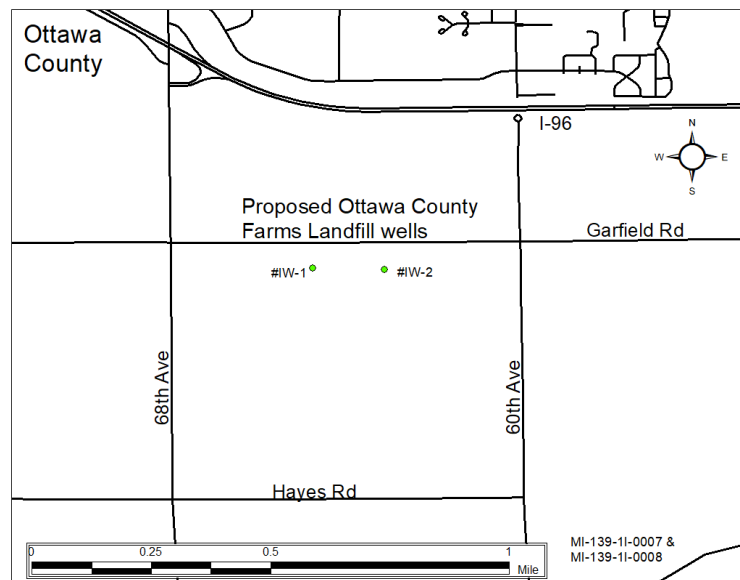
December 2020

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to issue permits for two Class I non-hazardous injection wells to Ottawa County Landfill, Inc., of Coopersville, Michigan. Before EPA makes a final decision, the Agency is providing the public an opportunity to comment on the draft permits (*see left-hand box on how to comment*).

Ottawa County Landfill, Inc., currently owns and operates Ottawa County Farms Landfill and is proposing to construct two injection wells for the disposal of non-hazardous landfill leachate. The facility is located between 60th and 68th Avenues and south of Garfield Road, in Ottawa County, Michigan. Liquid waste will be injected 4490 feet below the ground surface into these rock formations: Trenton, Black River, Prairie du Chien Group, Trempealeau Formation, Franconia Formation Galesville Formation, Eau Claire Formation, and Mount Simon Sandstone.

Federal law requires all Class I wells be built in a way that protects drinking water supplies.¹ That means waste must be injected into a rock formation beneath the lowermost formation containing an underground drinking water source. All Class I wells shall be cased and cemented to prevent the movement of fluids into or between underground sources of drinking water.

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Map shows location of the proposed injection wells in Ottawa County, Michigan.

¹Injection wells must meet the regulatory criteria of 40 Code of Federal Regulations, or C.F.R., sections 124, 144, 146, and 147; and the Safe Drinking Water Act, or SDWA. To view these regulations and laws, see <https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/regulations>.

Public Comments and Hearing Requests

Send comments and requests for a hearing to EPA's Allan Batka (batka.allan@epa.gov) during the public comment period (*see front-page box*). The public comment period includes 30 days for comments as required by law, plus an additional three days for any delay caused by mailing.

Requests for a hearing must be in writing and must identify issues to be raised. EPA will hold a hearing if there is significant public interest in the draft permit decision based on written requests. If a hearing is scheduled, EPA will publish a notice of the hearing at least 30 days in advance.

EPA will consider all comments received during the comment period and the hearing if held and then issue a final decision along with a document that lists EPA responses to significant comments.

Be aware that the USEPA does not have the authority to change the surface location of the injection wells. Any issues regarding surface facilities, such as the location of the injection well should be addressed to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). EGLE can be contacted at the following address: P.O. Box 30256, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7756 and phone number (517) 241-1515.

Permit Requirements

Federal regulations for underground injection wells list standards for construction, geology, location (siting), operating conditions, and record keeping, to protect supplies of underground drinking water from contamination caused by injection wells.

EPA's preliminary review of the permit application for these wells concluded they would have no environmental impact.

Below is an explanation of the some of the factors involved in permitting an injection well:

Underground Source of Drinking Water

(USDW): A USDW is defined as any aquifer or portion thereof that contains less than 10,000 milligrams per liter of total dissolved solids, and which is being or can be used as a source of drinking water. In the case of the Ottawa County Landfill, Inc. wells, the base of the lowermost USDW has been identified at a depth of 470 feet below the ground surface. This water-bearing formation is the Marshall Formation.

Site Geology: The injection zone is the Trenton, Black River, Prairie du Chien Group, Trempealeau Formation, Franconia Formation, Galesville Formation, Eau Claire Formation, and Mount Simon Sandstone from 4490 feet to 7300 feet below the surface. The immediate overlying confining zone is the Utica Shale. Additional adequate confining layers exist between the injection zone and the base of the lowermost Underground Source of Drinking Water.

Area of Review (AOR): The AOR is the area within a two-mile radius of the proposed injection wells. EPA analyzed the AOR to identify wells that might allow fluid to move out of the injection zone. In the AOR for the proposed wells, there are 0 producing, 0 injection, 0 temporarily abandoned, 0 plugged and abandoned, and 0 other wells that penetrate the confining zone.

Maximum Injection Pressure: EPA set an injection pressure limit that will prevent the injection formation from fracturing. The proposed maximum injection pressure for this well is limited to 1102 pounds per square inch.

Financial Assurance: Ottawa County Landfill, Inc. has demonstrated adequate financial resources to close, plug and abandon the underground injection wells. Ottawa County Landfill, Inc. has established a State Bond to cover these costs at the amount of \$129,500.