TCEQ’s Rules Governing
Class V Wells

Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 331, Underground Injection Control (Notably Subchapters A, C, H, & K)
What are Class V injection wells?

- Miscellaneous injection wells not fitting in Class I, II, III, or IV

- Generally inject non-hazardous fluids into or above an underground source of drinking water (USDW)

- USDW - “an aquifer or its portion which supplies any public water system or contains a sufficient quantity of ground water to supply a public water system and contains fewer than 10,000 mg/l TDS and is not an exempted aquifer”
What is an Injection Well?

- **Injection Well** – A well into which fluids are being injected.
- **Well Injection** – The subsurface emplacement of fluids through a well.
- **Fluid** – Material or substance which flows or moves whether in a semisolid, liquid, sludge, gas or any other form or state.
- **Well** – A bored, drilled or driven shaft whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension, a dug hole whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension, an improved sinkhole, or a subsurface fluid distribution system but does not include any surface pit, surface excavation, or natural depression.
- **Improved Sinkhole** – A naturally occurring karst depression or other natural crevice found in carbonic rocks, volcanic terrain, and other geologic settings which has been modified by man for the purpose of directing an emplacing fluids into the subsurface.
- **Subsurface fluid distribution System** – An assemblage of perforated pipes, drain tiles, or other similar mechanisms intended to distribute fluids below the surface of the ground.

30 TAC 331.2 Definitions
Class V Injection Well Authorization

- Authorized by rule, i.e., without need for a permit
  - No permitting process
  - No fees required at this time
- The owner or operator of a Class V injection well must submit the Class V inventory/authorization form 10338 as provided on the TCEQ website for each facility new and existing. Included in this is the Core Data Form.
- Must obtain approval of submitted inventory information prior to construction, operation, and/or conversion of a Class V well. (30 TAC 331.10(d))

Information on Class V wells and other injection wells may be found at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/permits/uic.html
Types of Rule Authorized Class V Injection Wells in Texas

These Class V Wells are Required to Submit the Inventory Information and Obtain Approval

- Remediation
- WWTP Disposal
- Experimental Technology
- Heat/AC Return Open Loop Systems
- Drainage Wells (Agriculture, Stormwater, and Industrial)
- Aquifer Recharge
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery
When is a permit required for a Class V well?

§331.9 - The executive director may require an injection well authorized by rule to obtain a permit.

- When required by the ED under 30 TAC §331.9
  - for noncompliance with rule standards
  - for failure to submit inventory information
  - at the ED’s discretion in order to protect USDW’s
- Septic Systems that accept industrial waste (Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit)
- Large Capacity Septic Systems (Municipal Wastewater Discharge Permit)
- Subsurface Area Drip Dispersal Systems (SADDS) (Municipal Wastewater Discharge Permit)
- Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells (UIC Class V Permit)
Septic Systems that accept industrial waste

- Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit is required to be obtained.
- The Class V inventory/authorization form must be completed and submitted in order to be inventoried.
- Any renewals or amendments to the permit should also be submitted to the UIC Team.
Large Capacity Septic Systems and SADDS

- Municipal Wastewater Discharge Permit is required to be obtained.
- The Class V inventory/authorization form must be completed and submitted in order to be inventoried.
- Any renewals or amendments to the permit should also be submitted to the UIC Team.
Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells

An owner or operator of a motor vehicle waste disposal well who wishes to continue operation of a well may apply for a Class V motor vehicle waste disposal permit and shall have the following minimum requirements.

- The owner or operator of a Class V motor vehicle waste disposal well must demonstrate that fluids released through the well will meet the primary maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for drinking water and other appropriate health-based standards at the point of injection as specified in the Class V permit.
- The owner or operator of a Class V motor vehicle waste disposal well must follow specified best management plans (BMPs) for motor vehicle-related facilities as specified in the Class V permit.
- The owner or operator of a Class V motor vehicle waste disposal well must monitor the quality of the injectate and sludge (if present in dry wells or tanks holding injectate) both initially and on a continuing basis as specified in the Class V permit to demonstrate compliance with the primary MCLs for drinking water contained in 40 CFR Part 141.
When is Just Inventory Information Required?

- Closed loop injection wells which are closed system geothermal wells used to circulate fluids including water, water with additives, or other fluids or gases through the earth as a heat source or heat sink. These include the closed loop heat/AC return systems.

- Closed loop air conditioning return flow systems and geothermal wells do not require prior approval, however, they are only authorized if a TDLR report (drillers log) is submitted to the executive director within 30 days from the date the well construction is completed.

- Any additives, constituents, or fluids (other than potable water) that are used in the closed loop injection well system shall be reported in the Water Quality Section on the state well report form.
Amendments to Class V Injection Well Authorizations

- Changes to the Class V Authorization require prior approval.
- A new application is not needed.
- Submit letter and all necessary documents.
- Avoid duplication of facilities.
Number of Class V wells

To date there are over 35,000 inventoried and authorized Class V wells in Texas at over 2,400 facilities. The total of Class V wells on inventory in Texas includes over 12,000 Heat/AC return loop wells and over 20,000 injection wells associated with remediation of groundwater. Other significant authorizations include Industrial Stormwater Drainage Wells (499) and Large Capacity Septic Systems (498).

There are a significant numbers of uninventoried Class V wells that likely exist.
TCEQ Information

- **Website**
  - [www.tceq.texas.gov](http://www.tceq.texas.gov)

- **General Contact information**
  - Underground Injection Control Program
    - MC 233
    - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
    - PO Box 13087
    - Austin TX 78711-3087
  - [uic@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:uic@tceq.texas.gov)

- **Specific Authorization Questions**
  - Bryan Smith
  - [bryan.smith@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:bryan.smith@tceq.texas.gov)
  - 512-239-6075
Questions?