Environmental Protection Agency

§ 147.504

Existing Class II enhanced recovery and hydrocarbon storage wells authorized by rule.

(a) Maximum injection pressure. (1) To meet the operating requirements of §144.28(f)(3)(ii) (A) and (B) of this chapter, the owner or operator shall:

(i) Limit injection pressure to a value which will not exceed the operating requirements of §144.28(f)(3)(ii); and

(ii) Submit data acceptable to the Regional Administrator which defines the fracture pressure of the formation in which injection is taking place. A single test may be submitted on behalf of two or more operators conducting operations in the same formation, if the Regional Administrator approves such submission. The data shall be submitted to the Regional Administrator within 1 year of the effective date of this program.

(b) Casing and cementing. Where the Regional Administrator determines that the owner or operator of an existing enhanced recovery or hydrocarbon storage well may not be in compliance with the requirements of §§144.28(e) and 146.22, the owner or operator shall, when required by the Regional Administrator:

(1) Protect USDWs by:

(i) Cementing surface casing by recirculating the cement to the surface from a point 50 feet below the lowermost USDW; or

(ii) Isolating all USDWs by placing cement between the outermost casing and the well bore; and

(2) Isolate any injection zones by placing sufficient cement to fill the calculated space between the casing and the well bore to a point 250 feet above the injection zone; and

(3) Use cement.