less than one mile for the circum-
scribing area of Class I projects and
one-half mile for the circumscribing
area of Class II and III projects.

(b) However, in lieu of §146.6(c) of
this chapter, if the area of review is de-
termined by a mathematical model
pursuant to paragraph §146.6(a) of this
chapter, the permissible radius is the
result of such calculation even if it is
less than one mile for Class I wells and
one-half for Class II and III wells.

§ 147.3107 Mechanical integrity.

(a) Monitoring of annulus pressure
conducted pursuant to §146.8(b)(1) shall
be preceded by an initial pressure test.
A positive gauge pressure on the cas-
ing/tubing annulus (filled with liquid)
shall be maintained continuously. The
pressure shall be monitored monthly.

(b) Pressure tests conducted pursuant
to §146.8(b)(2) of this chapter shall be
performed with a pressure on the cas-
ing/tubing annulus of at least 200 p.s.i.
unless otherwise specified by the Direc-
tor. In addition, pressure tests con-
ducted during well operation shall
maintain an injection/annulus pressure
differential of at least 100 p.s.i.
throughout the tubing length.

(c) Monitoring of enhanced recovery
wells conducted pursuant to
§146.8(b)(3), must be preceded by an ini-
tial pressure test that was conducted
no more than 90 days prior to the com-
 mencement of monitoring.

§ 147.3108 Plugging Class I, II, and III
wells.

In addition to the requirements of
§146.10 of this chapter, owners and op-
erators shall comply with the following
when plugging a well:

(a) For Class I and III wells:
(1) The well shall be filled with mud
from the bottom of the well to a point
one hundred (100) feet below the top of
the highest disposal or injection zone
and then with a cement plug from
there to at least one hundred (100) feet
above the top of the disposal or injec-
tion zone.

(2) A cement plug shall also be set
from a point at least fifty (50) feet
below the shoe of the surface casing to
a point at least five (5) feet above the
top of the lowest USDW.

(3) A final cement plug shall extend
from a point at least thirty feet below
the ground surface to a point five (5)
feet below the ground surface.

(4) All intervals between plugs shall
be filled with mud.

(5) The top plug shall clearly show by
permanent markings inscribed in the
cement or on a steel plate embedded in
the cement the well permit number and
date of plugging.

(b) For Class II wells:
(1) The well shall be kept full of mud
as casing is removed. No surface casing
shall be removed without written ap-
proval from the Director.

(2) If surface casing is adequately set
and cemented through all USDWs (set
to at least 50 feet below the base of the
USDW), a plug shall be set at least 50
feet below the shoe of the casing and
extending at least 50 feet above the
shoe of the casing; or

(3) If the surface casing and cement-
ing is inadequate, the well bore shall be
filled with cement from a point at least
50 feet below the base of the USDW to
a point at least 50 feet above the shoe
of the surface casing, and any addi-
tional plugs as required by the Direc-
tor.

(4) In all cases, the top 20 feet of the
well bore below 3 feet of ground surface
shall be filled with cement. Surface
casing shall be cut off 3 feet below
ground surface and covered with a se-
cure steel cap on top of the surface
pipe. The remaining 3 feet shall be
filled with dirt.

(5) Except as provided in sub-para-
graph (b)(6) of this section, each pro-
ducing or receiving formation shall be
sealed off with at least a 50-foot ce-
ment plug placed at the base of the for-
mation and at least a 50-foot cement
plug placed at the top of the formation.

(6) The requirement in sub-paragraph
(b)(5) of this section does not apply if
the producing/receiving formation is
already sealed off from the well bore
with adequate casing and cementing
behind casing, and casing is not to be
removed, or the only openings from the
producing/receiving formation into the
well bore are perforations in the cas-
ing; and the annulus between the cas-
ing and the outer walls of the well is
filled with cement for a distance of 50
feet above the top of the formation.
When such conditions exist, a bridge plug capped with at least 10 feet of cement set at the top of the producing formation may be used.

(7) When specified by the Director, any uncased hole below the shoe of any casing to be left in the well shall be filled with cement to a depth of at least 50 feet below the casing shoe, or the bottom of the hole, and the casing above the shoe shall be filled with cement to at least 50 feet above the shoe of the casing. If the well has a screen or liner which is not to be removed, the well bore shall be filled with cement from the base of the screen or liner to at least 50 feet above the top of the screen or liner.

(8) All intervals between cement plugs in the well bore must be filled with mud.

(c) For the purposes of this section mud shall be defined as: mud of not less than thirty-six (36) viscosity (API Full Funnel Method) and a weight of not less than nine (9) pounds per gallon.

§ 147.3109 Timing of mechanical integrity test.

The demonstrations of mechanical integrity required by §146.14(b)(2) of this chapter prior to approval for the operation of a Class I well shall, for an existing well, be conducted no more than 90 days prior to application for the permit and the results included in the permit application. The owner or operator shall notify the Director at least seven days in advance of the time and date of the test so that EPA observers may be present.

Subpart JJJ—Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes

§ 147.3200 Fort Peck Indian Reservation: Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes—Class II wells.

The UIC program for Class II injection wells on all lands within the exterior boundaries of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation is the program administered by the Assiniboine and Sioux (Fort Peck) Tribes approved by EPA pursuant to section 1425 of the SDWA. Notice of this approval was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on October 27, 2003; the effective date of this program is November 26, 2008. This program consists of the following elements as submitted to EPA in the Fort Peck Tribes’ program application:

(a) Incorporation by reference. The requirements set forth in the Fort Peck Tribes’ Statutes, Regulations, and Resolutions notebook, dated June 2008, are hereby incorporated by reference and made part of the applicable UIC program under the SDWA for the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained or inspected at the Fort Peck Tribal Offices, 605 Indian Avenue, Poplar, Montana 59255, (406) 768–5155, at the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8, 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, Colorado 80222-1129, (303) 272–8917, or at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call (202) 741–6030, or go to: http://www.archives.gov.federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html.


(d) Program Description. The Program Description submitted as part of the Fort Peck Tribes’ application, and any other materials submitted as part of the application or as a supplement to it.

[73 FR 63646, Oct. 27, 2008]

Subpart KKK [Reserved]

Subpart LLL—Navajo Indian Lands

§ 147.3400 Navajo Indian lands—Class II wells.

The UIC program for Class II injection wells located: Within the exterior