



State of Louisiana

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

INJECTION AND MINING DIVISION

INTRA-OFFICE POLICY STATEMENT

POLICY NO.: IMD-GS-15

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Bottom of Zone Plug Requirements for Class II Saltwater Disposal Wells and Enhanced Recovery Injection Wells

PURPOSE: This guidance provides clarification to the construction requirements of LAC 43:XIX.415 in order to prevent the escape of injected fluids into any unauthorized strata.

BACKGROUND:

The Injection and Mining Division (IMD) of the Louisiana Office of Conservation regulates Class II injection wells for saltwater disposal (SWD) and enhanced recovery (EOR) under LAC 43:XIX, Subpart 1 (Statewide Order No. 29-B). To prevent the contamination of underground sources of drinking water (USDW) and/or intrusion of disposed water into oil or gas bearing formations, injection permits issued by IMD authorize injection only into specified zones. Injected fluids may not exit the wellbore outside of this approved injection zone and must remain confined to the approved zone.

POLICY:

Each SWD or EOR well permitted after the effective date of this policy shall be properly plugged back no deeper than the first confining shale below the injection zone and not more than 100 feet below the bottom of zone. If the long string extends 100 or more feet below the zone, or through non-confining intervals, a sufficient plug must be set within the casing. Acceptable plugs include cement plugs of at least 100 feet, bridge plugs with a minimum of 10 feet of cement on top, or cement retainers with a minimum of 20 feet of cement on top. This plug is in addition to, not in lieu of, plugs required to isolate perforated productive intervals per LAC 43:XIX.137. The casing and plug must be tested to the maximum authorized injection pressure or 300 psi, whichever is greater, for a minimum of 30 minutes with less than a five percent pressure loss. Exceptions to this policy may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Approved By:



Stephen H. Lee, Director
Injection & Mining Division



Benjamin C. Bienvenu
Commissioner of Conservation