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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

INJECTION AND MINING DIVISION

INTRA-OFFICE GUIDANCE STATEMENT

POLICY NO.: IMD-GS-17 EFFECTIVE DATE: April 14, 2025

- SUBJECT: Minimum Distance Requirements for Class II Saltwater Disposal and Enhanced Recovery Injection Wells Near Salt Domes
- **PURPOSE:** This guidance provides clarification to the application requirements of LAC 43:XIX.405 in order to prevent the dissolution of salt dome structures and the migration of fluids from the approved injection zone.

BACKGROUND:

The Louisiana Office of Conservation regulates Class II saltwater disposal (SWD) and enhanced oil recovery (EOR) injection wells under LAC 43:XIX, Subpart 1 (Statewide Order No. 29-B). Because the introduction of unsaturated brine can dissolve and compromise domal salt, SWD and EOR wells located near salt domes present a higher risk of endangering underground sources of drinking water (USDW). In accordance with LAC 43:XIX.415, a distance requirement must be established to prevent the dissolution of salt and migration of injected fluids from the approved injection zone.

POLICY:

Wells drilled or converted for Class II saltwater disposal or enhanced recovery injection after the effective date of this policy shall not be located closer than ¹/₄ mile from any salt dome at the closest approach between the injection zone and salt dome flank. This distance shall be determined using the most current salt dome contour map available.

Exceptions to this policy may be considered if the operator can demonstrate that the injected fluids are sufficiently saturated or otherwise incapable of dissolving the domal salt. Criteria for this approval may include, but is not limited to, site-specific geology, fluid analysis, well construction, injection rates, volumes, and pressures.

APPROVED BY:

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