



Best Management Practices (BMP) For Protecting Ground Water

For Facilities Using Special Drainage Wells

EPA recognizes that drainage well disposal practices may pose a threat of contamination to Underground Sources of Drinking Water. These wells, while necessary, may need additional attention to minimize their impact on ground water resources.

All Special Drainage Wells

- * Apply for a permit to continue injecting if so directed

Swimming Pool Drainage Wells

- * Filter and treat pool water regularly to remove microbial and chemical contaminants
- * Line well bottoms with filter fabric where practical
- * Ensure that well outlets are at least two feet above high-water level to allow for adequate natural filtration
- * Use appropriate cleaners (e.g. biodegradable)

Potable Water Tank Overflow Wells

- * Ensure that the above-ground portion of the overflow system is totally enclosed to prevent airborne and surface contamination

Landslide Control Drainage Wells

- * Test routinely for contaminants
- * Extend vertical wells so that they drain into trenches or horizontal wells
- * Treat water at horizontal well outlets (direct water from multiple well outlets to centralized treatment such as a settling pond)

Closure of Landslide Control Drainage Wells and Alternative Landslide Prevention Techniques

- * Install retaining walls around landslide area
- * Unload material from top of landslide area
- * Buttress bottom of landslide area by adding material
- * Fill with grouting and cap well

Municipal Dewatering Wells

- * Check land uses in area before dewatering to help identify contaminants that may be in extracted ground water
- * Treat extracted water before reinjecting where necessary; for example, install a treatment device at dewatering well openings

Note: These BMPs are adapted from a May 1991 EPA report titled, "Class V Well BMP Guidance - Phase I and Phase II" and have been modified in response to comments by EPA Regions. For a copy of the EPA report, please contact the Underground Injection Control Branch of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, U.S. EPA