

Injection Well Information

August 17, 2018

Class II injection wells in Ohio receive liquid oil and gas industry waste from Ohio and other states including West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Injection wells create serious risks to public health and safety, and the environment. They pose serious, unacceptable risks to air, water, and land, as well as to property values and private property rights. Hubbard Township, Ohio and Brookfield, Ohio face proposed wells now.

We believe that Class II injection wells do not benefit communities and do not create job growth. We believe they should be prohibited due to known and unknown risks to public health and safety and to the environment. There are NO containers in the ground that receive and store the waste that is injected. Toxic waste is injected into rock formations.

In 2015, Vienna, Ohio experienced an injection well- linked release of fluid waste that destroyed two wetlands and a pond. Class II injection wells have been linked to man-made earthquakes in Ohio as well as in several other states, including Oklahoma, where state regulators cannot totally stop the quakes. Man-made earthquakes won't necessarily stay "small." Prague, Oklahoma experienced a damaging, magnitude 5.7 quake in 2011 that scientists link to injection. An injection well-linked magnitude 4.0 earthquake occurred in Youngstown, Ohio on December 31, 2011. That quake was one of a series of hundreds of smaller tremors. Some members of the local community say they have damage from the Youngstown quakes.

In 2014, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) shut-in two injection wells in the Weathersfield Township / Niles, Ohio area due to earthquakes, including a magnitude 2.1, near the two injection wells. Well number two remains closed as of the date of this writing, August 17, 2018. The fate of that well is now in the court system.

Our communities also face significant risk from truck accidents and spills. On March 9, 2016 in Barnesville, Ohio, a tanker truck overturned, which resulted in so-called "brine" getting into the reservoir. In 2014, a "brine" truck overturned in a ditch in front of someone's front yard in Brookfield. The truck was reportedly empty. In 2012, a five-mile long "brine" spill occurred in Fowler, Ohio. In 2013, an accident involving a so-called "brine" truck and two vehicles occurred in Vienna Township. Injuries were reported.*

We are extremely concerned about possible existing or future water contamination, about the huge volumes of liquids being pumped into our land, and about the rapidly increasing number of injection wells in our communities. Wells eventually leak. ODNR is permitting injection wells way too near family homes, businesses, waterways, and government buildings, and this is unacceptable and, we believe, unconstitutional. ODNR must immediately halt the injection wells due to unacceptable risks to public health and safety.

* More info: http://www.frackfreeamerica.org/blog/public-comment-odnr-should-denyrevoke-permits-of-5-fracking-waste-injection-wells-in-brookfield-ohio-december-2017#_ednref2

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