



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 10 2007

OFFICE OF
WATER

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Launch of the National Underground Injection Control Database

FROM: *Cynthia C. Dougherty*
Cynthia C. Dougherty, Director
Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

TO: Regional Water Management Division Directors, I, III - IX
Regional Enforcement Division Directors, II and X

I am pleased to announce that the Agency is launching the National Underground Injection Control (UIC) Database. Until now, the UIC program has not had access to a national database to meet its oversight and reporting responsibilities. Once fully populated, this database will ensure that the national and regional programs have efficient access to critical information to meet program management needs. Our expectation is that after initial implementation, the database will reduce the existing reporting burden on states and Regions.

It is critical that EPA build its capability to access UIC well-specific information that is efficient, accurate and usable. Once fully populated, the database will provide the UIC Program with inventory, compliance and enforcement information needed to manage the national program. In addition, the data will be used to respond to information requests from EPA management, Congress, other governmental leaders and the public.

Key benefits to the UIC Programs include:

- Increase reporting efficiency while decreasing reporting burden,
- Provide a single source of UIC information to meet Agency reporting requirements,
- Characterize UIC program progress to meet priority activities, and
- Understand the activities and effectiveness of primacy programs.

Also, with the UIC program beginning its critical efforts to develop a national regulation for geologic sequestration, EPA will need information that can be housed in the database to oversee sequestration activities.

Over the past year, the UIC Integrated Project Team, consisting of five states and the seven Regional DI programs, has worked with us to develop and test the UIC database. The Integrated Project Team will now begin to populate the database with FY 2007 well-specific data through EPA's exchange network. That data will undergo a rigorous quality assurance process. The Regions will be working with the remaining state programs to establish the transfer of data from their databases to the national database.

During FY 2008 we will begin to phase-in use of the database more broadly. During this phase-in, participating programs will still be required to submit all official reporting in the traditional format. We will be working with each of these programs individually to replace traditional reporting with the database.

As with any large undertaking, there are many people who worked hard to complete this project. Particularly, I would like to thank the project leaders (Carl Reeverts, Trang Le and Robyn Delehanty), the staff in Regions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, and staff from Delaware, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and Nebraska, who participated on the Integrated Project Team. Their participation has ensured that the database will be able to meet the needs of the program into the future.

We encourage you to receive a briefing from your Regional UIC Branch Chief on the status of Regional efforts to implement the national UIC Database and to work with state programs to populate it.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me or Steve Heare, Director of the Drinking Water Protection Division, at (202) 564-3754.