



## CLASS V UIC STUDY FACT SHEET *SUBSIDENCE CONTROL WELLS*

<b>What is a subsidence control well?</b>	Subsidence control wells are Class V underground injection control (UIC) wells whose primary objective is to control land sinking, or subsidence, caused by ground water withdrawal and other activities (but not oil and gas production).
<b>What types of fluids are injected into subsidence control wells?</b>	Untreated surface water, untreated ground water, saline water, and/or surface water treated to drinking water standards.
<b>Do injectate constituents exceed drinking water standards at the point of injection?</b>	No data on injectate constituents or concentrations associated with subsidence control wells are available.
<b>What are the characteristics of the injection zone of a subsidence control well?</b>	None of the known, active subsidence control wells inject into underground sources of drinking water. Some wells are being used to inject beneath construction zones to minimize damage from settlement caused by construction, and other wells inject into a salt dome cavity that is used for the storage of oil at the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Weeks Island site in LA.
<b>Are there any contamination incidents associated with subsidence control wells?</b>	No contamination incidents associated with the operation of subsidence control wells have been reported.
<b>Are subsidence control wells vulnerable to spills or illicit discharges?</b>	Details on the design, construction, and operation of subsidence control wells are not available. Thus, it is not possible to determine if subsidence control wells are vulnerable to receiving spills or illicit discharges.
<b>How many subsidence control wells exist in the United States?</b>	There are 28 subsidence control wells documented in the United States. The estimated number of subsidence control wells in the nation is approximately 158.
<b>Where are subsidence control wells located within the United States?</b>	All documented subsidence control wells are located in LA (8), OR (14), and WI (6). Of the estimated subsidence control wells in the nation, as many as 50 wells may be located in NY. The documented and estimated numbers of subsidence control wells do not include any wells in AK; however, officials responsible for the UIC Program in that state did not rule out the possibility that some exist.
<b>How are subsidence control wells regulated in states with the largest number of this type of well?</b>	<i>Permit by rule:</i> LA, OR  <i>Individual permit:</i> NY  <i>Ban new wells:</i> WI
<b>Where can I obtain additional information on subsidence control wells?</b>	For general information, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, toll-free 800-426-4791. The Safe Drinking Water Hotline is open Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. For technical inquiries, contact Amber Moreen, Underground Injection Control Program, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (mail code 4606), EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, D.C., 20460. Phone: 202-260-4891. E-mail: <a href="mailto:moreen.amber@epa.gov">moreen.amber@epa.gov</a> . The complete Class V UIC Study (EPA/816-R-99-014, September 1999), which includes a volume addressing subsidence control wells (Volume 23), can be found at <a href="http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/uic/cl5study.html">http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/uic/cl5study.html</a> .