

AMWUA Monitors HB2180

[HB2180 Aquifer Protection Permits; Natural Gas Storage](#)

HB2180 would exempt Class 2 injection wells, if used for natural gas storage projects and if regulated by the Safe Water Drinking Act and 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 144, from ADEQ's requirements for Aquifer Protection Permits.

Injection wells are classified by federal regulations and are used to discharge liquid byproducts in deep, underground porous rock. Class II wells inject fluids associated with oil and natural gas production.

As part of the natural gas storage process, salt basins are injected with water in order to make brine. The brine is then removed and injected into a reservoir that is already unsuitable for drinking water. The removal of the brine creates a cavern in which pressurized natural gas can be stored.

Through its Underground Injection Control (UIC) program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has primacy over Arizona with regard to regulation of injection wells. Wells must comply with both the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 144. The SDWA, passed by Congress in 1974, authorizes the EPA to set health standards pertaining to natural and man-made water contaminants, and 40 CFR part 144 outlines UIC requirements for injection wells.

Arizona law designates all aquifers for drinking water protected use. (A.R.S. § 49-224) An APP issued by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is required for a facility that releases pollutants directly into an aquifer, onto the land surface, or in between an aquifer and the land. Currently, injection wells are considered a polluting facility as are ten other facility types. There are currently 24 exemptions to the APP requirement in statute.

Sponsor: Representative Seel

Titles Affected: 49

Last Action: Referred to House Water and Energy

