

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Permit Process Reopened for Underground Injection Well

West Bay Exploration Company  
Jackson County, Michigan

May 2012

## New comment period and public hearing scheduled

The EPA is seeking further comments on the West Bay #22 Well draft permit. The original comment period ended in February and a public hearing was requested. EPA will address all comments received during both comment periods and at the public hearing.

## The new comment period closes Friday, June 1.

An information meeting and formal public hearing have been scheduled:

**Wednesday, May 23**

### Information Session:

5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

### Public Hearing:

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Columbia Central High School  
Brooklyn, Michigan

## How to comment

If you have submitted a comment, you do not need to resubmit.

Send new written comments to:

**Anna Miller**

U.S. EPA (WU-16J)

77 W. Jackson Blvd.

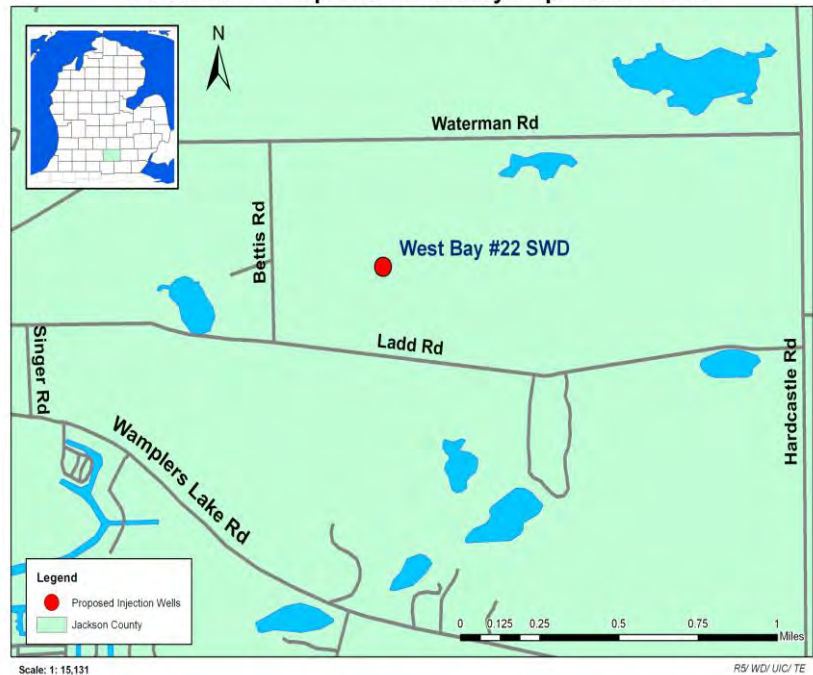
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

miller.anna@epa.gov

## Right to appeal

You have the right to appeal any final permit decision if you made an official comment in the previous comment period, the new comment period or commented at the public hearing. The first appeal must be made to the Environmental Appeals Board.

Location of Proposed West Bay Exploration Well



This map shows the location of the proposed West Bay #22 draft permit (EPA #MI-075-2D-0009) for an underground injection well.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has scheduled a public hearing on a permit request by the West Bay Exploration Co. The company wants to dispose of brine deep beneath the earth's surface. EPA calls this a Class II non-hazardous brine disposal well.

Class II wells are typically used to inject fluids that result from oil and gas production into the ground. There are about 144,000 Class II wells in the United States. About 20 percent are known to be used for brine disposal.

EPA reviewed the West Bay #22 permit application and found there should be no significant environmental impact from the proposed well. EPA received requests for a public hearing during the original comment period, which closed in February. So EPA will hold a public hearing and begin a new comment period before making a final decision on granting the permit.

The Safe Drinking Water Act authorizes EPA to regulate the underground injection of fluids through wells to protect underground sources of drinking water.

For more information and answers to Frequently Asked Questions for this permit, please check EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/region5/water/uic/uicpub.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/uic/uicpub.htm).

### **More information available**

You may view the draft permit and public hearing fact sheet at:  
Jackson District Library  
244 W. Michigan  
Jackson, Mich.

You may also view related documents at the EPA's Chicago office. Please contact:

**Anna Miller**  
Permit Writer  
312-886-7060  
miller.anna@epa.gov.

Or visit [www.epa.gov/region5/water/uic/uicpub.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/uic/uicpub.htm).

For further questions, call toll-free, 800-621-8431, weekdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.