

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE AN
UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL (UIC)
CLASS III PERMIT FOR
MORTON SALT, INC.**

Comment period through November 29, 2010

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this public notice is to solicit public comments on the proposal by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 (EPA) to issue a Class III UIC permit to Morton Salt, Inc. (Morton). The draft permit, if issued, would authorize Morton to install a new underground injection well (Well Roach-Baker [RB] #5) at the site for the purpose of solution mining. The draft permit is for Morton's Glendale facility located at the following address:

Morton Salt, Inc.
13000 West Glendale Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85307-2408

Morton is a commercial salt manufacturing company that owns and operates a solution mining facility at the Glendale location. The salt is manufactured by pumping fresh water (through two existing EPA permitted underground injection wells at the facility) and dissolving a subsurface naturally occurring salt body. The salty brine is pumped up to surface evaporation ponds, and after the evaporation of the water, the resulting salt crystals are processed and packaged into salt products such as salt pellets for commercial customers. EPA's proposed action would authorize Morton to construct a third injection well at the facility. Based on our review of the proposed well construction, operation standards, monitoring requirements, and the existing geologic setting, EPA believes the activities allowed under the proposed Draft Permit are protective of Underground Sources of Drinking Water as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

EPA has made a preliminary determination to issue a Class III UIC permit to Morton pending completion of this public review period. This action is being taken as provided by Part C of the Safe Drinking Water Act and pursuant to Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 124, 144, 146, and 147.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

All non-proprietary data submitted by the applicant and the draft permit prepared by EPA are contained in the Administrative Record for this proposed action. EPA's fact sheet and the draft permit are available for public inspection online at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/groundwater/uic-permits.html>

in addition to the locations listed below:

Glendale Public Library
5959 West Brown Street
Glendale, AZ 85301
(602) 842-85302

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
Ground Water Office (WTR-9)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attention: Michele Dermer
Telephone: (415) 972-3417
dermer.michele@epa.gov

Comments on the draft permit are encouraged and will be accepted in writing (email is acceptable) through the end of the comment period on November 29, 2010 (40 CFR §124.13). A public hearing may be held only if there is a significant degree of public interest in the draft permit (40 CFR §§124.11 and 124.12). A request for a public hearing shall be in writing and shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing.

FINAL PERMIT DECISION AND APPEALS PROCESS

After the close of the public comment period, EPA will issue a response to comments, a final permit decision, and will notify all commenters regarding the final permit decision. The final decision shall be to either issue or deny the permit. If comments are filed which request a change in the draft permit, the final decision shall become effective no sooner than thirty (30) days after the service of the notice of decision. Within thirty (30) days after the final permit decision has been issued, any person who filed comments on the draft permit, participated in any Public Hearing on this matter, or takes issue with any changes in the draft permit, may petition the Environmental Appeals Board to review any condition of the permit decision. Commenters are referred to 40 CFR Section 124.19 for procedural requirements of the appeal process. If no comments are submitted requesting a change in the draft permit, the permit shall become effective immediately upon issuance (40 CFR §124.15).