*CONFIDENTIAL*

# WEEKLY HOT ISSUES REPORT for RA/DRA Region 8
## Week ending May 4, 2018

## OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION AND REMEDIATION
*No report*

## OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT, COMPLIANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

HOT ISSUES AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

**SDWA Enforcement Underground Injection Control Team to Conduct Routine Inspections on the Uintah & Ouray Indian Reservation, during the Week of May 21, 2018**
Key Message: The UIC Team plans to conduct inspections at up to 120 EPA-regulated Class II injection wells on the Uintah & Ouray Reservations for 5 operators.

- ECEJ has informed the Tribal government of the upcoming inspection by letter to Chairman Duncan sent the week of April 30, 2018.
- Inspectors plan to be accompanied by tribal representatives while on the Uintah & Ouray Indian Reservation.
- Contacts: Tiffany Cantor, 312-6521; Gary Wang, 312-6469

**SDWA Enforcement is Authorizing QEP Energy to Resume Injection into a Class II Injection Well Located on the Uintah & Ouray Indian Reservation, Utah.**
Key Message: SDWA Enforcement Unit is issuing approval during the week of April 30 to resume injection after the workover of a Class II UIC well.

- On January 30, 2018, the RW 41-20B Class II injection well located in the Red Wash oilfield lost mechanical integrity and was shut-in.
- The company completed a workover of the well by replacing its injection tubing and packer to re-establish mechanical integrity, and on April 26, 2018, the well passed a mechanical integrity test.
- EPA is approving injection to resume on the well, because it is located within the exterior boundaries on the Uintah & Ouray Indian Reservation, where EPA has direct implementation authority.
- Technical Contact: Nathan Wiser, 312-6211; Management Contact: Tiffany Cantor, 312-6521

**SDWA Enforcement is Issuing a Notice of Violation for Loss of Mechanical Integrity to the QEP Energy Company for a Well Located in Utah on the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation.**
Key Message: SDWA Enforcement Unit issued a Notice of Violation the week of April 30 due to a loss of mechanical integrity.

- The Company notified EPA that this rule-authorized Class II injection well lost mechanical integrity on April 17, 2018.
- The underground injection control regulation requires the company to maintain mechanical integrity at this well. A loss of mechanical integrity is a violation of this requirement.
- Before injection may resume, the regulation requires the well to be repaired successfully, demonstrate the well passed a mechanical integrity test, and obtain a written authorization from EPA. The company also has the option of properly plugging and abandoning the well. Failure to comply may result in an enforcement action.
- EPA is issuing this NOV because this injection well is located on the U&O Indian Reservation where EPA has direct implementation authority.



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- Technical Contact: Nathan Wiser, 312-6211; Management Contact: Tiffany Cantor, 312-6521

**NPDES Enforcement Plans to Conduct Wastewater, Industrial User, Produced Water, and Stormwater Inspections on the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Indian Reservations**
Key Message: NPDES Enforcement plans to inspect five wastewater lagoons inspections, two industrial user inspections of federal facilities, and an unknown number of construction stormwater inspections on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. NPDES Enforcement also plans to conduct one wastewater inspection, two produced water inspections, and an unknown number of construction stormwater inspections on the Crow Indian Reservation. Both reservations are in Montana, and inspections are planned for the week of May 7, 2018.

- The EPA directly implements the NPDES program in Indian country.
- The purpose of the inspections is to verify compliance with the facilities' EPA-issued NPDES permits or determine if the facilities are discharging without a permit.
- EPA has provided written notification to the tribal governments of the inspections.
- Technical Contact: Akash Johnson 312-6067; Management Contact: Stephanie DeJong 312-6362

## OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

HOT ISSUES AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

**Resource Conservation and Recovery Program (RCRP) Providing Assistance on Ute Indian Tribe's Draft Waste Management Codes**
Key Message: On May 1, 2018, staff from RCRP had a call with the Ute Indian Environmental Director, Mr. Bart Pewaukee, to discuss progress on the Ute Tribe's development of solid and hazardous waste codes and to offer any technical assistance the Tribe may require.

- Mr. Pawaukee indicated that the Tribe's final draft solid and hazardous waste codes are ready to be submitted to their Council for approval.
- At Mr. Pewaukee's request, RCRP will review and provide comment on the draft codes.
- Many of the codes are taken from the Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota due to the many similar waste streams created from oil and gas production.
- Mr. Pawaukee also requested that RCRP provide him with a summary of RCRP's knowledge of oil sands and oil shale operations on the Reservation.
- Contacts: Jesse Newland, 312-6353; Roger Hancock, 312-6135, Nancy Morlock, 312-6421; Janice Pearson, 312-6354

## OFFICE OF TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES
***No report***

## OFFICE OF WATER PROTECTION
***No report***



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