

proposed revisions to the Underground Injection Control (UIC) regulations that would allow for continued wastewater injection by existing Class I municipal wells that have caused or may cause the movement of fluid into or between underground sources of drinking water (USDWs) in specific areas of South Florida. These revisions would provide owners and operators of such wells with an alternative for compliance with the existing UIC regulations, which prohibit such fluid movement, by allowing them to continue using their wells provided the injection does not endanger USDWs. Also in 2000, in a separate but related initiative, Congress directed EPA to conduct a relative risk assessment of four management options for treated municipal wastewater in South Florida: deep (Class I municipal) well injection, ocean disposal, surface discharge, and aquifer recharge. This document announces the availability of the relative risk assessment report required by Congress. EPA will consider the information collected on deep (Class I municipal) well injection contained in this relative risk assessment in making a final determination on the July 7, 2000, proposed rule. In a separate document in today's **Federal Register**, EPA is soliciting public comment on how this information in the relative risk assessment should inform the final rule on deep municipal wastewater injection in South Florida.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice of the data availability must be in writing and either postmarked or received by the docket by July 7, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to: Nancy H. Marsh, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, GA 30303-8960. Comments must be submitted electronically to [marsh.nancy@epa.gov](mailto:marsh.nancy@epa.gov). For additional information see Additional Docket Information in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this **Federal Register** document.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For inquiries, and/or to access the risk assessment report, contact Nancy H. Marsh, Ground Water & UIC Section, EPA Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303 (phone: 404-562-9450; E-mail: [marsh.nancy@epa.gov](mailto:marsh.nancy@epa.gov)) or Howard Beard, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA East, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Mail Code 4606M, Washington, DC 20460 (phone: 202-564-3874; E-mail: [beard.howard@epa.gov](mailto:beard.howard@epa.gov)) or contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, phone 800-426-4791. The Safe Drinking Water Hotline is open Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern daylight-saving time.

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## **I. General Information**

### *Who Are Regulated/Affected Entities?*

This notice is limited in application to the owners and/or operators of existing deep (Class I) underground injection wells that inject domestic wastewater effluent in specific counties in Florida. The counties are: Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Dade, Flagler, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lee, Manatee, Martin, Monroe, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pinellas, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sarasota, and Volusia. Regulated categories and entities include:

Category	Examples of entities
Municipalities and Local Government .....	Class I municipal injection wells disposing of domestic wastewater effluent in certain parts of Florida.
Private .....	Class I municipal injection wells disposing of domestic wastewater effluent in certain parts of Florida.

This table is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide for readers regarding entities likely to be interested in this notice. This table lists the types of entities that EPA is now aware of that could potentially be affected by decisions related to this notice. Other types of entities could potentially be affected by such decisions. To determine whether your injection well might be affected, you should carefully examine the applicability criteria in 40 CFR 146.15 of the July 7, 2000, proposed revisions to the Class I UIC regulations (65 FR 42234). If you have questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult one of the persons listed in the preceding **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

## **II. Background**

### *A. Definition of Class I Municipal Wells*

Class I injection wells are wells that inject fluids beneath the lowermost formation containing, within one-quarter mile of a well bore, a USDW (40 CFR 144.6(a)). Class I wells can be used to inject hazardous, industrial, or municipal wastes. Class I municipal wells inject treated wastewater from publicly or privately owned and operated facilities that treat domestic wastewater, which is principally derived from dwellings, business buildings, and institutions. Domestic wastewater is commonly referred to as sanitary wastewater or sewage. Treated wastewater from industrial facilities, often controlled through pretreatment standards, may also be found in this

wastewater. Currently, Class I municipal wells are located only in the State of Florida.

### *B. Proposed Rule for Class I Municipal Wells in Florida*

EPA has established minimum requirements for Class I municipal wells and other underground injection activities through a series of UIC regulations at 40 CFR parts 144 through 147, developed under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act. These regulations ensure that Class I municipal wells will not endanger USDWs by prohibiting the movement of any contaminant into USDWs.

On July 7, 2000, EPA proposed revisions to the UIC regulations that would allow continued wastewater injection by existing Class I municipal