

Oil and Gas Board Policy Governing the Disposal of Drilling Muds and Fluids into Sub-surface Strata

(ADOPTED BY THE BOARD ON 5/21/08)

RULE 45.III.E.9 – DISPOSAL DURING DRILLING OPERATIONS

Drilling muds and fluids and other waste products and deleterious substances used in conjunction with the drilling operations may be disposed of by injection into sub-surface containing a dissolved solids content greater than 10,000 ppm, or as approved by the Supervisor, and void of oil, gas and fresh water, during the progress of or following drilling operations only, provided authorization is granted by the Supervisor of the State Oil and Gas Board.

It shall be the policy of the Board in granting authority for the disposal of drilling muds and fluids under the above paragraph of Rule 45, that the following requirements be met.

1. Surface casing shall be set a minimum of 100' below the base of the Underground Source of Drinking Water (USDW).
2. The surface casing shall be pressure tested after drilling the hole for and prior to running the next string of casing. The test shall be a 30-minute test recorded on a pen recorder, the chart from which shall be given to the field inspector for review and forwarding to the MSOGB office. The test pressure shall be left up to the operator, with the understanding that the pressure chosen shall not be exceeded during the disposal of the drilling mud. A pressure loss of no more than 3% shall be considered a good test. The field inspector shall be notified prior to the test, giving him the opportunity to witness the test.
3. The disposal of drilling mud shall not begin until verbal approval is obtained from the field inspector. The pumping of the drilling fluid shall also be recorded by a pen recorder and the resulting chart given to the field inspector for review and forwarding to the MSOGB office.

Drilling mud and fluids from additional wells operated by the same operator may also be disposed of in a well. The number of additional wells from which drilling mud may be disposed is as follows:

<u>Well Depth</u>	<u>Additional wells from which drilling mud may be pumped into a well</u>	<u>Total Number</u>
< 7,500'	9	10
7,501' – 12,000'	6	7
> 12,000'	3	4

The disposal of drilling mud other than that used to drill the well into which the drilling mud is being pumped shall require the same documents as required for the landfarming of drilling mud, i.e., (1) analysis of pit contents, (2) document showing landowner permission and (3) drilling contractor's statement on hazardous substances.

Exceptions to this policy may be granted by the Oil and Gas Supervisor, Chief Engineer, or UIC Coordinator .