

Decommissioning and Remediation of Class V Injection Wells

FY2021 Request: \$1,700,000
Reference No: 50790

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Life / Health / Safety

Category: Transportation

Location: Statewide

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact: Dom Pannone

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2025

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Funding is needed for the final phase of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required decommissioning and remediation of 55 Class V injection wells statewide. The EPA took enforcement action against the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) for violating Part C of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Department of Law and the DOT&PF negotiated and signed a Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) that gave the department until December 31, 2018 to decommission and close all wells. The EPA has agreed to modify the CAFO termination date by extending the deadline to complete the required closure work by December 31, 2021.

Funding:	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	Total
1004 Gen Fund	\$1,700,000						\$1,700,000
Total:	\$1,700,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,700,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec1 Ch1 SLA2019 P6 L19 SB2002 \$2,200,000
 Sec17 Ch1 SLA2017 P95 L22 HB57 \$5,500,000
 Sec35(c) Ch18 SLA2014 P117 L23 SB119 \$561,200
 Sec1 Ch18 SLA2014 P64 L5 SB119 \$938,800
 Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P79 L25 SB18 \$1,200,000

As of September 2019, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has closed 46 wells and eight additional wells that were not part of the original CAFO requirements; however, DOT&PF actively proceeded with the removal and closure in accordance with federal regulations. Closure work includes developing an EPA approved closure plan, soil sampling, well closure and removal, and removal and disposal of all contaminated liquids, sludge, and soil from in and around the injection well.

Project Description/Justification:

The Underground Injection Control (UIC) program at the EPA regulates underground disposal activities to ensure that fluids injected or percolated underground do not endanger underground sources of drinking water.

UIC regulation 40 C.F.R Part 144 classifies motor vehicle waste disposal wells as Class V Injection Wells. In 2000, the EPA banned motor vehicle waste disposal wells and required that all such wells be closed throughout Alaska no later than January 1, 2005. A motor vehicle waste disposal well is a shallow disposal system that receives fluids from vehicle repair or maintenance activities conducted in a vehicle maintenance shop. Typical motor vehicle waste disposal wells are floor drains in service bays that connect to a septic system or drywell. However, any underground system that receives motor vehicle waste is considered a motor vehicle waste disposal well. During normal vehicle repair and maintenance, fluids such as engine oil or solvents may drip or spill into floor drains in service areas. If the floor drains are connected to a septic system, dry well, log crib, drain tank, or any other type of underground disposal system, waste fluids may be entering and contaminating the drinking water system.

The decommissioning process is a multi-step process. Notice of closure and a closure plan must first be developed and submitted to EPA at least 180 days prior to removal and closure. The existing well closure must permanently plug all discharges from entering the groundwater in a way that is approved by EPA and ensures groundwater protection. The department is required by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the EPA to extract and treat the gross contamination in proximity to each injection well, evaluate and delineate remaining contamination at all sites (in soil and groundwater, as appropriate), and install a new wastewater management system. This will appropriately handle and treat the non-domestic wastewater (runoff) from the floor drains, dispose of or manage any soil, gravel, sludge, liquids, or other materials removed from the well and/or the area around the well. If the soil is determined to be contaminated by petroleum or other volatile organic compounds, all contaminated material must be disposed of or managed by an approved method.

Funding is needed for the final phase of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required decommissioning and remediation of 55 Class V injection wells statewide. The CAFO includes a civil penalty of \$332.0 (the civil penalty was paid from the FY2014 appropriation of \$1,200.0).

In FY2020, \$2.2M was received for decommissioning and remediation efforts, \$1.7M is the final installment for resolving the issue.