

HB 174 – UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL FUND

Relating to **Ground Water**; Creating the Underground Injection control fund; Making Appropriations

Bill Sponsors: Rep Small, Rep Dixon

WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?

Appropriates money (\$1.4 million non-recurring and \$1 million recurring) to create a **streamlined state permitting program** for Class VI wells to facilitate Carbon Capture and Storage administered by the **Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)**. Class VI wells currently require permits from the EPA with extensive requirements designed to protect groundwater.

Only 24 have been approved as of January 25th, 2023.

A NEW SECTION OF THE WATER QUALITY ACT

Underground Injection Control Fund

- Created as a non reverting fund in the state treasury;
- Consisting of appropriations, gifts, grants and donations

The EMNRD shall administer the fund

- Money appropriated to the EMNRD to carryout a state underground injection control program
- Warrants signed by Secretary of Finance

Why is EMNRD pursuing this false solution?

The federal government recently passed the Inflation Reduction Act, which provides **45Q tax credits for CO2 storage**. But carbon capture will only **set our state back** when it comes to protecting public health, clean water, and mitigating the most **catastrophic climate impacts**.

FROM AN EPA REPORT:

“The **consequences** of CO2 leakage on **groundwater** quality were evaluated to provide **sound scientific information** to regulators and the public. **Injection** of high-pressure CO2 could **impact shallow aquifers** through several processes.”

EPA: “Understanding Geochemical Impacts of Carbon Dioxide Leakage from Carbon Capture and Sequestration”

The State Legislature has a **constitutional duty** to protect New Mexicans’ right to a beautiful and healthful environment. But **bill sponsors** are trying to push through HB174 **without** any analysis of how Class VI wells will affect communities, natural resources, and the climate.

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WHAT ARE CLASS VI WELLS?

Class VI wells use a technology known as geologic sequestration, which is often referred to as **Carbon Capture and Storage or "CCS"**. This process uses wells that are drilled into deep rock formations, where they **"store"** captured carbon emissions. It's a way for polluters to **"offset"** their emissions by more or less **"hiding"** them underground.

Dangers of Underground CO2 Injection

Groundwater Contamination:

The biggest concern for Class VI Wells is that they can pierce through groundwater aquifers.

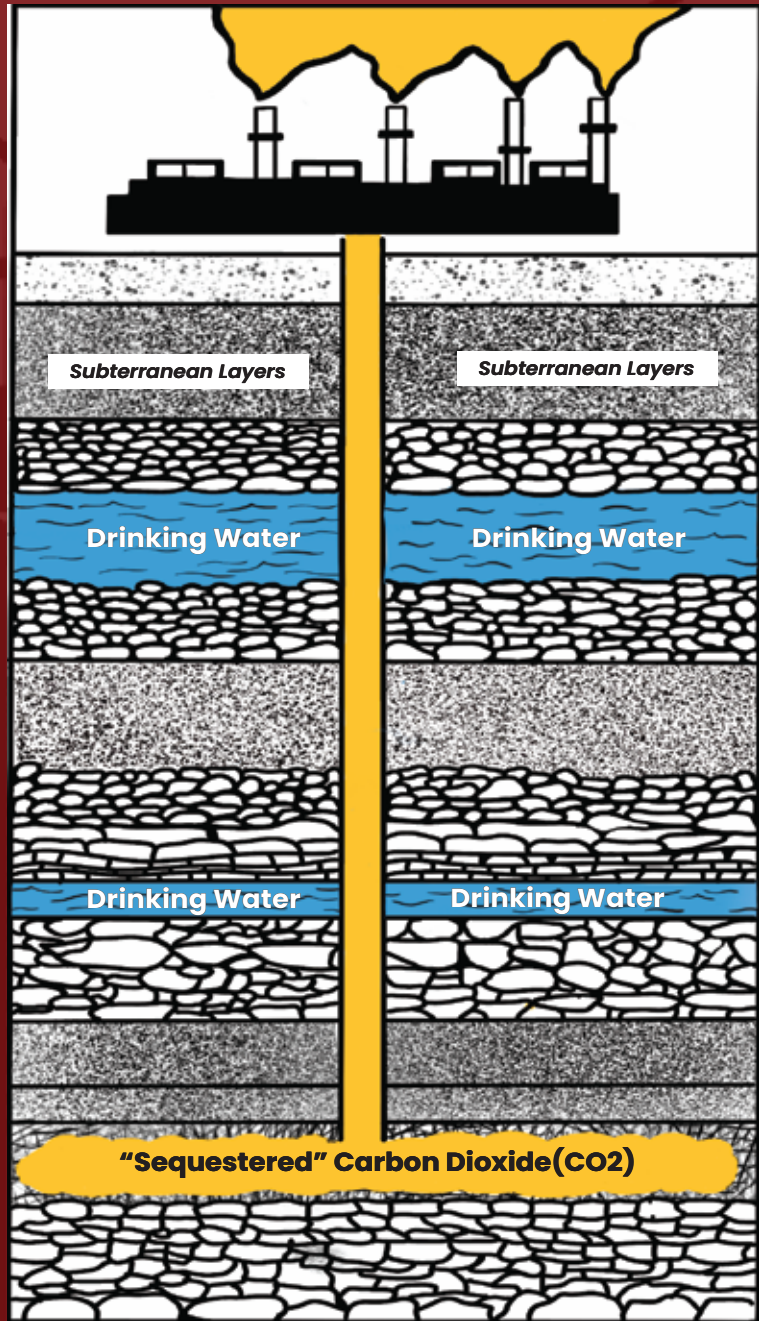
Carbon Capture:

A false climate solution that will keep NM hooked on fossil fuels rather than helping our state adopt a just and equitable transition to clean energy.

EMNRD:

Currently does not have any rules on the books to regulate Class VI wells. Is also looking to fast track Class VI Wells, risking our collective health and welfare.

Source for risks: <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/R46192.pdf>



VOTE NO – HB 174!
PROTECT OUR WATER!

