

Fundamentals (4.h): Permitting/Enforcement Groundwater Monitoring at Land Disposal Facilities

Ensure groundwater monitoring at local disposal facilities is protective of human health and the environment.

Goal: Provide a human health and environmentally protective level of oversight of groundwater monitoring at land disposal facilities.

The monitoring of groundwater at facilities with land disposal units is a critical activity to protect public health and the environment. These inspections are a collaborative activity undertaken by the Geologic Services Unit, the Enforcement and Emergency Response Division and the Office of Permitting.

Recently, due to resource limitations and competing priorities, DTSC has been challenged to provide consistent and systematic oversight of these monitoring activities as they are undertaken by closed and operating land disposal facilities. This plan proposes a series of scaled inspection activities that will provide more comprehensive oversight of the regulated facilities and provide information to assist risk management decisions as to whether additional oversight is warranted at facilities.

Timeline:

April - June 2013:

- Confirm the universe of regulated facilities
- Collaboratively develop ranking criteria to prioritize which facilities should be inspected most quickly
- Brief the Joint Cleanup Council (Water Boards) regarding DTSC's approach

July – September 2013:

- Complete communication plan to notify/remind regulated facilities of the requirements that they conduct groundwater monitoring
- Develop an inspection plan and tools that reflects both DTSC's capacity and prioritization of facilities for inspection
- Conduct inspections and field test the newly developed inspection tools

October 2013 – Mar 2014:

- Develop and complete staff cross training
- Complete guidance document reflecting new inspection/evaluation procedures
- Incorporate groundwater monitoring workload into annual work plans for each program

- Develop/improve electronic management tools to track inspections and enforcement activities data base to track