

NE Department of Environmental Quality Changes Regulations to Shop Waste

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) recently changed regulations that could impact how shop waste is handled at motor vehicle and equipment repair shops across the state. NDEQ revised Title 122, Rules and Regulations for Underground Injection and Mineral Production Wells, in response to a federal law change in April 2000. The changes to Title 122 took effect April 2, 2002.

The 2000 federal law change made it illegal to connect new motor vehicle shop floor drains to septic systems and leach fields. The 2002 revised state law makes new and existing shop floor drains to septic systems and leach fields illegal across Nebraska. Prior to the state regulation change, NDEQ worked with operators of known “motor vehicle waste disposal wells” (as floor drains to septic systems are called) to properly close these drains or to make some other arrangements for shop floor drain waste. Other arrangements may have included piping the floor drain to a holding tank which is periodically pumped and hauled; utilizing the existing mud pit as the holding tank and having it pumped; hooking up to a city sewer after installing an in-line grease trap; or completely closing the floor drain.

Other changes were also made to Title 122. Some of these included new construction standards and setback distances for Class V injection wells (such as large capacity septic systems, storm water drainage wells, and open loop heat pump wells). All changes were made to better protect ground water quality and to bring the regulations into agreement with other state and federal laws.

The revised regulations can be viewed on line at www.deq.state.ne.us. If you would like a copy sent to you, or have questions regarding this revised law, call Dave Miesbach, Underground Injection Control program manager at NDEQ, 402-471-4982 or write to NDEQ at P.O. Box 98922, Lincoln, NE 68509