



**Idaho Department of Water Resources Memo For
Shallow Injection Well Criteria**
Effective Date: 7/1/2011

The intent of this document is to detail the criteria necessary to classify a feature as a shallow injection well based on IDWR's interpretation of Federal and State rules.

Federal Definitions: (40 CFR, part 144.3 - Definitions)

1. Well: A bored, drilled, or driven shaft whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension; or, a dug hole whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension; or, an improved sinkhole; or, a subsurface fluid distribution system.
2. Improved Sinkhole: A naturally occurring karst depression or other natural crevice found in volcanic terrain and other geologic settings which have been modified by man for the purpose of directing and emplacing fluids into the subsurface.
3. Subsurface Fluid Distribution System: An assemblage of perforated pipes, drain tiles, or other similar mechanisms intended to distribute fluids below the surface of the ground.
4. Fluid: Any material or substance which flows or moves whether in a semisolid, liquid, sludge, gas, or any other form or state.
5. **Injection Well: A "well" into which "fluids" are being injected.**

State of Idaho Definitions: (Title 42, Chapter 39, 42-3902 - Injection Wells)

1. **Injection well: Any feature that is operated to allow injection which also meets at least one (1) of the following criteria:**
 - (a) **A bored, drilled or driven shaft whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension;**
 - (b) **A dug hole whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension;**
 - (c) **An improved sinkhole; or**
 - (d) **A subsurface fluid distribution system.**
2. Injection: The subsurface emplacement of fluids through an injection well.
3. Shallow Injection Well: An injection well which is less than or equal to eighteen (18) feet in vertical depth below land surface.

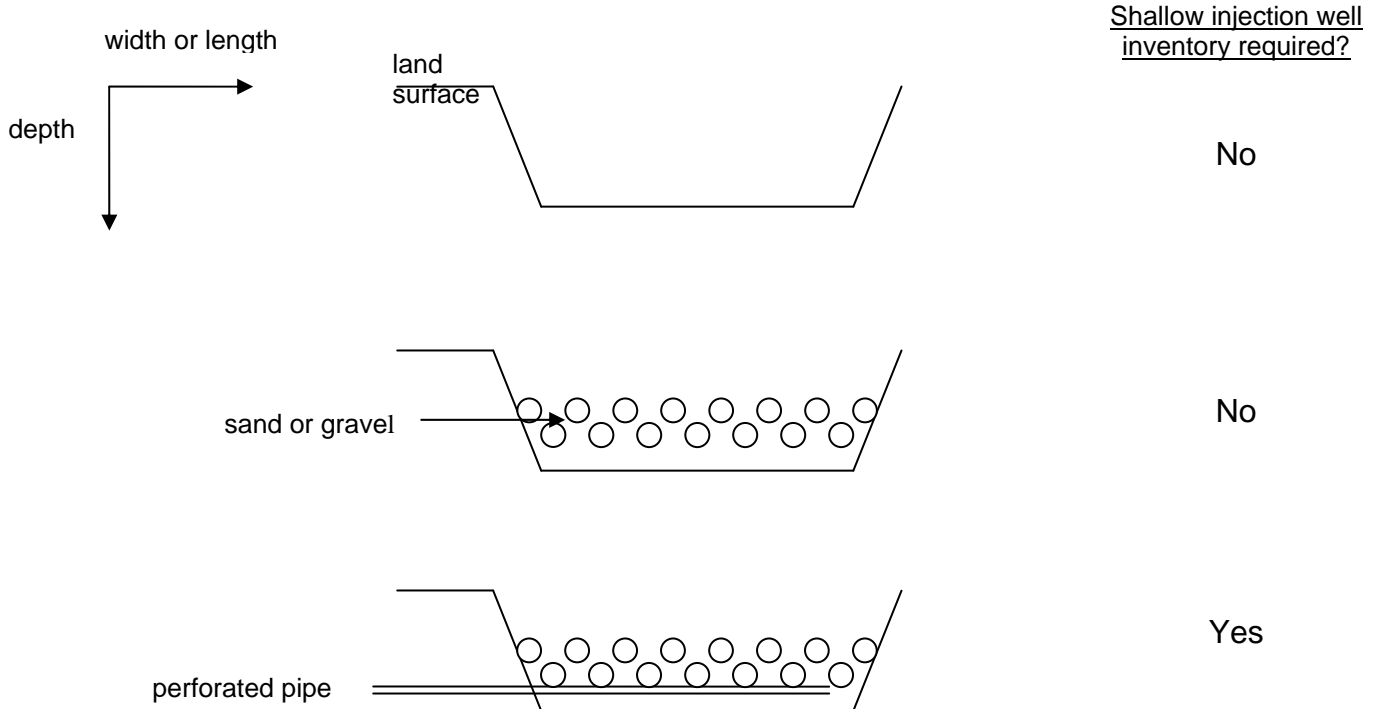
The State of Idaho uses the Federal definitions for fluid and subsurface fluid distribution system in IDAPA 37.03.03 - Rules for the Construction and Use of Injection Wells.

Exemptions from IDWR Underground Injection Control inventory requirements: (40 CFR, part 144.81(9))

- Single family residential septic system wells
- Non-residential septic systems used solely for disposal of sanitary waste with a capacity to serve fewer than 20-persons per day

However, both of these examples are regulated by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and State Health Departments.

The following three scenarios represent trenches that are not deeper than their largest surface dimension. The first two scenarios do not use a subsurface fluid distribution system.



The following two scenarios depict boreholes that are deeper than their largest surface dimension, that may or may not be filled with sand or gravel, and do not utilize a subsurface fluid distribution system.

