



As with all oil and gas wells, multiple layers of casings and cement barriers surround the main tubing to stabilize the well hole and prevent leakage and groundwater contamination.

Diagram is not to scale

Multiple impermeable rock layers exist between the surface and disposal zone.

Wastewater is injected into the target disposal zone, a relatively porous formation surrounded by impermeable layers of solid rock, located up to 2 km below the surface.

Did You Know?



After 12 months of no disposal volumes reported, the operator is required to change the status of the well to “suspended” and must inspect the well annually. Inspection requirements for suspended wells include visual inspection, well-head maintenance, surface casing vent flow testing and lease maintenance.



The BCER has taken a leadership role in the detection and mitigation of induced seismicity, including the installation of over 40 seismometers in northeast B.C. and instituting requirements for operators to monitor seismic activity and suspend operations if it reaches a certain threshold. The BCER also engages in ongoing research and collaboration with industry, academia, and other agencies to advance the understanding and management of induced seismicity.



The BCER’s Disposal Well Application guideline requires companies to submit a map showing known faults within 20 km of proposed disposal locations.



The BCER encourages evidence-based regulatory enhancements by supporting researchers at B.C. universities on a range of topics, including well integrity, groundwater and surface water resources and induced seismicity.