

2023 Kansas Statutes

55-1,117. Underground storage of hydrocarbons; department of health and environment regulation of other underground storage. (a) As used in this section, K.S.A. 65-171d and K.S.A. 55-1,118 through 55-1,122, and amendments thereto:

(1) "Company or operator" means any form of legal entity including, but not limited to, a corporation, limited liability company and limited or general partnerships.

(2) "Secretary" means the secretary of health and environment.

(3) "Underground porosity storage" means the storage of hydrocarbons in underground, porous and permeable geological strata which have been converted to hydrocarbon storage.

(b) For the purposes of protecting the health, safety and property of the people of the state, and preventing surface and subsurface water pollution and soil pollution detrimental to public health or to the plant, animal and aquatic life of the state, the secretary of health and environment shall adopt separate and specific rules and regulations establishing requirements, procedures and standards for the following:

(1) Salt solution mining;

(2) the safe and secure underground storage of liquid petroleum gas and hydrocarbons, other than natural gas in underground porosity storage; and

(3) the safe and secure underground storage of natural gas in bedded salt.

(c) Such rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Site selection criteria;

(2) design and development criteria;

(3) operation criteria;

(4) casing requirements;

(5) monitoring and measurement requirements;

(6) safety requirements, including public notification;

(7) closure and abandonment requirements, including the financial requirements of subsection (f); and

(8) long term monitoring.

(d) (1) The secretary may adopt rules and regulations establishing fees for the following services:

(A) Permitting, monitoring and inspecting salt solution mining operators;

(B) permitting, monitoring and inspecting underground storage of liquid petroleum gas and hydrocarbons, other than natural gas in underground porosity storage; and

(C) permitting, monitoring and inspecting underground storage of natural gas in bedded salt.

(2) The fees collected under this section by the secretary shall be remitted by the secretary to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the subsurface hydrocarbon storage fund.

(e) The secretary or the secretary's duly authorized representative may impose on any holder of a permit issued pursuant to this section such requirements relating to inspecting, monitoring, investigating, recording and reporting as the secretary or representative deems necessary to administer the provisions of this section and rules and regulations adopted hereunder.

(f) Any company or operator receiving a permit under the provisions of this act shall demonstrate annually to the department of health and environment evidence, satisfactory to the department, that such permit holders have financial ability to cover the cost of closure of such permitted facility as required by the department.

(g) The secretary may enter into contracts for services from consultants and other experts for the purposes of assisting in the drafting of rules and regulations pursuant to this section.

(h) (1) For a period of two years from July 1, 2001, or until the rules and regulations provided for in subsection (b)(3) are adopted, the injection of working natural gas into underground storage in bedded salt is prohibited, except that cushion gas may be injected into existing underground storage in bedded salt. Natural gas currently stored in such underground storage may be extracted.

(2) Any existing underground storage of natural gas in bedded salt shall comply with the rules and regulations adopted under this section prior to the commencement of injection of working natural gas into such underground storage.

(3) Rules and regulations adopted under subsection (b)(3) shall be adopted on or before July 1, 2003.

(i) No hydrocarbon storage shall be allowed in any underground formation if water within the formation contains less than 5,000 milligrams per liter chlorides.

History: L. 2001, ch. 191, § 9; L. 2009, ch. 141, § 40; May 28.