

injection can be a useful tool, offering benefits that far outweigh its inherent risks.⁶ With the ever-increasing mass of waste produced as a result of society's demand for consumer goods, deep-well injection is a mainstay method of hazardous waste disposal for which no true replacement technology currently exists. It has been estimated that deep-well injection of hazardous wastes disposes of up to 59 percent of the 290 million tons of hazardous wastes generated in the United States each year.⁷

Currently, an outright ban on all but the most harmful land disposal methods is not feasible because of technological and economic limitations.⁸ Moreover, treatment does not necessarily result in the destruction of waste matter. Rather, its conversion to less toxic forms or non-toxic forms still requires proper disposal.⁹ Further, many hazardous wastes are not easily handled or treated in a cost-effective manner.¹⁰ For these reasons, deep-well injection of hazardous wastes, along with other existing land-based disposal methods, will remain a necessary, although disfavored, method of disposal until new approaches to treating hazardous waste are available.

As early as 1970, before the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created, the Commissioner of the Federal Water Quality Administration issued a statement of federal policy concerning deep-well injection.¹¹ The

6. See Stanley M. Greenfield, *EPA - The Environmental Watchman*, in UNDERGROUND WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS 14 (T.D. Cook ed., American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Tulsa, Oklahoma 1972) [hereinafter Greenfield, *EPA - The Environmental Watchman*].

7. See HAZARDOUS WASTE: CONTROLS OVER INJECTION WELL DISPOSAL OPERATIONS, *supra* note 4, at 8.

8. See Conference, *Performance and Costs of Alternatives to Land Disposal of Hazardous Waste*, Transactions of an APCA Int'l. Conference 217 (E. T. O'pelt ed., Dec. 1986).

9. See *id.*

10. See *id.* at 22.

11. See Greenfield, *EPA - The Environmental Watchman*, *supra* note 6, at 15. "[The] statement of federal policy concerning deep-well injection was issued by David Dominick, Commissioner of the Federal Water Quality Administration [in October 1970]." *Id.* at 14, 15. The EPA was established on December 2, 1970.