

New law requires the commissioner of conservation to make rules, regulations, and orders to control solution mining injection wells and solution mined caverns.

New law defines "solution mined cavern" and "solution mining injection well".

New law requires the commissioner of conservation to make, after notice and hearings, any reasonable rules, regulations, and orders that are necessary to control solution mining injection wells, the permitting of such wells, and the resulting solution mined cavern.

New law provides that the rules and regulation adopted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act shall provide for, though not be limited to the following:

- (1) Submission of site assessments and updates of the stability of salt stock and overlying and surrounding sediment based on past, current, and future well and cavern operations.
- (2) Submission of current and proposed caverns in relation to other caverns and the edge of the salt stock provided on maps and cross-sections depictions based on best available information and updated every five years.
- (3) Notification of well inactivity and conclusion of mining operations.
- (4) Setback distances for new caverns from the edge of the salt stock.
- (5) Enhanced monitoring of existing caverns within the setback distance from the edge of the salt rock.
- (6) Permit requirements to provide assistance to residents of the areas in immediate potential risk due to a sinkhole or other incident that requires evacuation. Permit requirements to reimburse the state or any political subdivision for reasonable and extraordinary cost in responding or mitigating a disaster or emergency due to a violation of new law or a rule, regulation, or order promulgated or issued pursuant to new law. Such costs are subject to approval by the director of Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and payments are not an admission of responsibility.
- (7) Criteria considered in deciding to approve the implementation of a closure plan of a solution mining injection well.
- (8) Submission and maintenance of post-closure plans to include subsidence monitoring, corrective action, and site remediation.
- (9) Evidence of financial security to be maintained for closure and post-closure costs.
- (10) Department protocols to ensure that all oil and gas activity within the vicinity of a salt dome shall be considered during the permitting process for any solution mine permit.

Effective August 1, 2013.

(Adds R.S. 30:3(16) and (17) and 4(M))