

## **UNDERSTANDING AROUND: DEQ - UIC Civil Penalty Assessment**

Back on 6/30/14 the District was issued a permit from DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) to operate the 96 UIC - (Storm water Underground Injection Control Systems) at 7 sites throughout the District. As part of the permit process we informed the DEQ that we would perform a series of things during the next 10 years.

Some of the items we advised we would perform were:

- 1) Training our staff on how to handle UIC sites
- 2) Water testing at 7 sites twice a year for the first two years and then 6 times year 3-10
- 3) Establishing spill protocols and purchasing spill containment devices.

When I arrived in July 2015 (end of 1st year of permit) none of 3 items we said we would accomplish had been started, I found this out when I was informed we needed to prepare our yearly report for DEQ that was due to DEQ 9/30/15.

From July to present we have accomplished all 3 objectives specified in the permit along with responding to the violation letter received from DEQ 1/13/16. On 2/3/16 I submitted a formal appeal letter requesting the value specified in the violation be reduced - initial fine assessed was \$17,058. In the appeal letter I specified 4 ways to mitigate a reduction in the fine totaling \$38,115 leaving a hopeful zero value due.

Per discussions with DEQ 2/3/16 the response time on hearing back on our appeal could be 2 to 4 months. On 2/9/16 I scheduled our initial appeal hearing it is set for 2/25/16 from 1 to 2pm. The current personnel slotted to present at the hearing are Dr. Karen Gray, Sharie Lewis and Tom Dufresne.