

FAA to close vehicle waste disposal wells in Alaska

Jan. 13 -- The Federal Aviation Administration has pledged to close more than two dozen motor vehicle waste disposal wells in Alaska by 2012. The FAA action resulted from an administrative order on consent issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The injection wells were used by FAA to dispose of fluids collected through maintenance facility floor drains. Disposed fluids included engine oil, brake fluid, fuel, cleaning solvents and other materials. FAA has not used the injection wells for motor vehicle waste in years. They were built in areas where sewage treatment facilities are not available.

The wells have been banned by the Safe Drinking Water Act since 1999. The EPA said the wells can contaminate underground sources of drinking water.

"FAA is doing the right thing by setting a schedule to close these wells," said Edward Kowalski, director of the Office of Compliance and Enforcement in EPA's Seattle office. "These wells were banned to protect Alaska's drinking water. EPA is stepping up its program to make sure this threat is reduced across the state."

For more information about the wells, log on to <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/water.nsf/UIC/MVWDW>

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Amanda Smith-Teutsch at 330-865-6166 or asmith-teutsch@crain.com