

# State Gives Manatee Draft Permit For Deep Well Injection Of Piney Point Water

September 5, 2021



Construction crews atop the Piney Point gypstack labor to seal the breach on May 16. Photo DEP.

Manatee County, aided and abetted by the main culprit in this mess – the DEP, has opted to take the easy way out and dump the unwanted process water which is atop the gypstack into the ground. Hopefully not in our aquifer.

The problem with this is that scientists do not know what they are doing here. They do not know if these toxins will pollute our drinking water or not.

They do know that liquids in the earth may migrate upwards, and that, once in the ground, they will not go away.

This “solution” is akin to the tried and true way to dispose of trash– dump it into the creek or river and it is out-of-sight-out-of-mind.

Incredibly, some of the current Manatee County BOCC members previously voted to allow Mosaic to mine (destroy) more of their county. Seems Mosaic may have a pretty good stranglehold on the non-leaders of Manatee County.

What we have here is a choice between money and environment.

So we know the answer.

Read the original article here [at WUSFNews](#).

*Comments by OSFR historian Jim Tatum.  
jim.tatum@oursantaferiver.org  
– A river is like a life: once taken,  
it cannot be brought back © Jim Tatum*



[Environment](#)

[Phosphate Mining](#)

Phosphate processing plants in the greater Tampa Bay bay region have caused some of Florida’s worst environmental disasters. Accidents like the recent spill at the former Piney Point plant fill the history books in Florida.

# State Gives Manatee Draft Permit For Deep Well Injection Of Piney Point Water

WUSF Public Media – WUSF 89.7 | By [Julio Ochoa](#)

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**Members of the public can submit written comments about the proposal and attend a public meeting on Oct. 6 in Bradenton.**

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has given initial approval to a Manatee County plan to inject treated water from the Piney Point phosphate plant into a well.

Members of the public will have an opportunity to submit written comments on the draft permit over the next 30 days. A public meeting to discuss the proposal will take place on October sixth in Bradenton.



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Bob Martinez Center  
2600 Blair Stone Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

Ron DeSantis  
Governor

Jeanette Nuñez  
Lt. Governor

Shawn Hamilton  
Interim Secretary

**Sent Via Electronic Mail**

September 1, 2021

In the Matter of an Application for Permit by:

Jeff Goodwin  
Deputy Director  
Manatee County Utilities  
4410 66th Street West  
Bradenton, Florida 34210  
[Jeff.Goodwin@mymanatee.org](mailto:Jeff.Goodwin@mymanatee.org)

DEP UIC Permit No.: 0322708-002-UC/II  
WACS Facility ID: 101607  
County: Manatee  
Class I Injection Well System, IW-1  
Construct and Operationally Test  
Piney Point Injection Well

### **Notice of Draft Permit**

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) hereby gives notice that a Draft Permit has been developed for the proposed project as detailed in the application specified above, for the reasons stated below.

The applicant, Manatee County Utilities, Jeff Goodwin, Deputy Director, 4410 66th Street West, Bradenton, Florida 34210 applied on April 20, 2021 for a permit to construct and operationally test a Class I injection well system.

The Department has permitting jurisdiction under Chapter 403 of the Florida Statutes (F.S.) and the rules adopted thereunder. The project is not exempt from permitting procedures. The Department has determined that an Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit is required for the proposed work.

Pursuant to Section 403.815, F.S., and Rule 62 528.315(6)(b) of the Florida Administrative Code, the applicant is required to publish the enclosed Notice of Draft Permit at their own expense. The Notice must be published one time only within 30 days in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected. For the purpose of this rule, "publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected" means publication in a newspaper meeting the requirements of Sections 50.011 and 50.031, F.S., in the county where the activity is to take place. The applicant shall provide proof of publication to the Aquifer Protection Program of the Department in Tallahassee

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**Permittee:** Jeff Goodwin, Deputy Director  
Manatee County Utilities  
Piney Point Injection Well

**UIC Permit Number:** 0322708-002-UC/11  
**WACS Facility ID:** 101807  
**Date:** September 1, 2021

within seven (7) days of publication. Failure to publish the notice and provide proof of publication within the allotted time may result in the denial of the permit.

Any interested person may submit written comments on the draft permit within 30 days of the public notice. Written comments may be submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection, Aquifer Protection Program, 2600 Blair Stone Road, MS 3530, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400. All comments received within the 30-day period and during the public meeting will be considered by the Department in formulating a final decision concerning this project.

A public meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Manatee County Central Library, Auditorium 1301 Barcarrota Blvd., West Bradenton, Florida 34205 for the purpose of receiving oral and written comments concerning this project. Please contact Annette G. Roberts, Engineering Specialist III at 850-245-8336, for additional information.

Manatee County commissioners applied for the permit to build the injection system in April, after a leak in one of the reservoirs forced the release of more than 200 million gallons of contaminated water into Tampa Bay.

Officials have struggled to determine what to do with the remaining water, which sits in several ponds atop stacks of phosphogypsum, a toxic byproduct produced during the processing of phosphate.

Environmental groups have concerns that injecting water into the ground could contaminate Florida's aquifer.

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September 2, 2021



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