To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to clarify that underground injection does not include certain activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
MARCH 25, 1999

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL
To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to clarify that underground injection does not include certain activities, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DEFINITION OF UNDERGROUND INJECTION.
Section 1421(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
U.S.C. 300h(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and
inserting the following:
“(1) UNDERGROUND INJECTION.—
“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘underground injection’ means the subsurface emplacement of fluids by well injection.

“(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘underground injection’ does not include—

“(i) the underground injection of natural gas for purposes of storage; or

“(ii) the underground injection of fluids or propping agents pursuant to hydraulic fracturing operations for purposes of reservoir stimulation related to oil or gas production activities.

“(C) REGULATION.—The Administrator shall possess the sole authority to determine whether an activity not regulated as underground injection prior to October 11, 1995 shall be regulated under this section.”.

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