

## Key Messages

- The Primer provides regulatory agencies with a guide for evaluating risks associated with induced seismicity. It is designed to help those agencies develop strategies for managing and mitigating risks and provide information in a transparent and effective manner.
- This Primer does not recommend specific policies. It does emphasize that a one-size fits all regulatory scheme would be inappropriate, as it would not be flexible enough to account for area-specific risks and concerns.
- Induced seismicity is a very complex issue where the base of knowledge is changing rapidly.
- States are best equipped to manage the risk from induced seismicity, due to an in-depth knowledge of industry operations and local geology.
- Injection wells are currently regulated under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, specifically the Underground Injection Control program (UIC). The UIC program, through primacy delegation, is administered by the states.
- Induced seismicity from injection can result from special subsurface conditions associated with faults that are already near failure and prone to slip.
- Only a small fraction of the 40,000 disposal wells associated with energy production in the United States have been potentially linked to induced earthquakes.
- Most induced seismic events are too small to be felt.
- The oil and gas industry has actively partnered with regulators, academia, NGOs and other experts to address induced seismicity, including sharing geologic data, helping to identify best practices, and supporting appropriate regulatory oversight at the state level.
- Underground wastewater injection is a critical component of continued U.S. oil and gas production.

- State regulatory agencies that deal with potential injection induced seismicity should be prepared to use tools, knowledge, and expertise, many of which are offered in this document, to prepare for and respond to occurrences of induced seismicity.
- Risk management, risk mitigation, and response strategies are most effective when developed considering specific local conditions and situations.