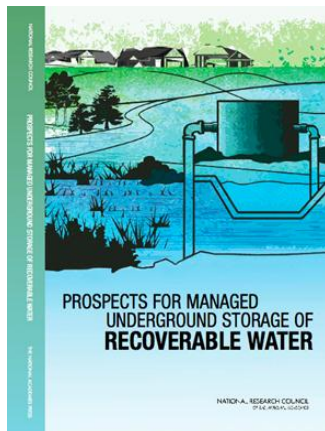


National Research Council

Forum on Managed Underground Water Storage Policy, Permitting, and Planning Issues

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Watercat was contracted by the National Research Council to organize the first national meeting on “institutional issues” of managed underground storage such as science- and risk-based managed underground storage (MUS) policy and regulations for water supply and protection of health and the environment; monitoring, management, and planning.

This forum was organized, in part, to disseminate the NRC Study Committee Report entitled “Prospects for Underground Storage of Recoverable Water.” Watercat founder, Cat Shrier, had served on the study committee that produced this report, leading or significantly contributing to chapters on general background; policy, legal, and institutional issues; and management issues. Dr. Shrier had also completed a previous National Survey and Analysis of Aquifer Storage Recovery Projects and Associated Regulatory Programs for the American Water Works Association (2002), and had prepared the regulatory issues section of the second edition of the only textbook on Aquifer Storage Recovery (Pyne 2007).

Held in partnership with the Ground Water Protection Council, National Ground Water Association, and Groundwater Resources Association of California, the forum attracted widespread interest, including speakers and participants from 25 states and 3 federal agencies. The forum was webcast and available globally live during the forum, and online after the forum. Working closely with NRC’s Water Science and Technology Board staff, Watercat organized and promoted the forum, speaking at 6 ASR-related events throughout the US, and arranged for the partnerships, sponsorship, and speakers, including four NAS study committee members.

Outcomes: The Forum included participation by several personnel from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Underground Injection Control (UIC) program, which later organized its own 2009 expert workshop on ASR issues and implementation of the UIC program to ensure safe use of ASR. With support from Watercat and the NRC, USEPA and other water stakeholders have gained an increased understanding of ASR and policy considerations, particularly under the UIC program.

