

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 Broadway, 24th Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

**NOTICE OF FORMULATION OF DRAFT UIC PERMIT
AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OF DRAFT PERMIT**

Public Notice No. PN 2020-9
Application No. **NYU063860**

Date: January 10, 2020

US Salt, LLC, P.O. Box 110, Salt Plant Road, Watkins Glen, NY 14891 has applied to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300f et. seq (the Act), for a Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit renewal to continue the operation of its Class III salt solution mining injection wells. The wells are located at approximately 42.41003⁰ north latitude and -76.89747⁰ west longitude, Salt Plant Road, Watkins Glen, New York 14891. The operating, monitoring and reporting requirements specified in the draft permit are the same as those in the prior permit except as noted in the Statement of Basis.

Seneca Lake water (North Field and South Field); and water condensed from steam, brine purged from the salt evaporation process, excess brine, brine derived from solution mining the Syracuse Formation received from off-site sources and brine made from dissolved salt products and from dust collectors (South Field), will be injected into the Salina Syracuse Formation which lies at a depth of between approximately 2,000 and 2,800 feet below the surface. Injection pressure, as measured at the surface and calculated per individual well, shall not exceed a maximum pressure of 630 psig in North Field (injection fluid specific gravity of 1.0) and 525 psig in South Field (injection fluid specific gravity of 1.088). If the injection fluid specific gravity attains a value above 1.088 in South Field, or above 1.0 in North Field, the following formula must be used to calculate maximum injection pressure:

$$\text{Maximum Injection Pressure} = [0.733 - (0.433 \times \text{SG})] \times D \text{ pounds per square inch gauge (psig)}$$

Where:

SG = Specific Gravity of Injected Fluid

D = Depth to the Top of Salina Salt

This notice is being given to inform the public that EPA has prepared a draft permit, and to solicit public comment. The permit contains standards, prohibitions and other conditions necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act. Should there be significant interest displayed by written public comment, a Presiding Officer shall conduct a public hearing on the above-identified draft permit. The purpose of this public hearing will be to receive comments from interested parties and the public on the draft permit prepared by EPA. Notification of the Hearing will be published in advance so that all interested parties may participate. Once all public comments are submitted and a public hearing, if necessary, is held, the Director of the Water Division of EPA Region 2 will make a final decision on whether or not to issue a permit and if issued the applicant will be required to comply with all conditions of the permit.

Written comments must be submitted within 30 days of the date of this notice **February 10, 2020** to the following address:

Christine Ash, Chief
Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Section
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway, 24th Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

All information submitted by the applicant is available as part of the administrative record, subject to provisions of law restricting the public disclosure of confidential information. The administrative record for the draft permit can be inspected at any time between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm. It is recommended that you contact EPA at region2_uic@epa.gov to schedule a date and time to review the administrative record to allow time for EPA to make the necessary arrangements for your visit. Copies of documents comprising the administrative record can be obtained by submitting a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request online at <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home> or by mailing a request to:

Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. EPA Region 2
290 Broadway, 26th Floor
New York NY 10007-1866

Please note that, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 2, fees may apply to FOIA requests.

Javier Laureano, PhD
Director, Water Division
EPA Region 2