

# **UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PROGRAM**

## **PUBLIC NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT**

**Montana State University-Bozeman, Energy Research Institute**  
207 Montana Hall  
Bozeman, MT 59717-2465

### **PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE**

The purpose of this notice is to solicit public comment on a proposal by the Region 8 Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue a UIC Permit that authorizes the underground injection of fluid via Class V Experimental Technology Well in Gallatin County, MT:

MT52233-09515  
ZERT Class V Well  
NE¼ of SW¼ Section 14, Township 2S, Range 5E  
Gallatin County, MT

### **BACKGROUND**

Montana State University-Bozeman, Energy Research Institute (MSU-ERI) has applied for a Class V Experimental Technology Well to conduct scientific studies using food grade CO<sub>2</sub> injected into a shallow horizontal well. Small amounts of perfluorinated tracers (PFT) may also be introduced with the CO<sub>2</sub> stream. The ratio of CO<sub>2</sub> to PFC will not exceed 40,000:1. The Zero Emission Research and Technology (ZERT) field project has been developed on the MSU campus in Bozeman, Montana to determine efficacy and detection limits of various near surface CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring techniques as well as study the transport of CO<sub>2</sub>. Researchers from 6 national labs, 6 universities, 5 companies, the United States Geological Survey, and the Electrical Power Research Institute have used more than 20 techniques to investigate and monitor CO<sub>2</sub> movement through soil, water, plants and the atmosphere at the site.

The well is located on agricultural land west of the MSU-Bozeman campus in Bozeman, Montana and consists of a stainless steel pipe 320 feet (98 meters) long, situated approximately 5.9 feet (1.8 meters) below ground surface, and slotted to allow CO<sub>2</sub> to flow into the subsurface. MSU-ERI has previously conducted experiments from 2007-2011. A number of papers from these studies have been published including a paper that described the chemical changes in the aquifer as a result of the introduction of the CO<sub>2</sub> into the subsurface. The water quality results from the monitoring wells showed that there were no exceedances of drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). The proposed activity associated with this Class V experimental well will be a continuation of these previous studies. Depending upon the availability of funding, the research and injection may continue each summer for periods of up to one month, for up to 10 additional years.

A Draft Permit has been prepared in accordance with provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) as amended (42 USC et seq) and other lawful standards and regulations. The EPA has made a preliminary determination that all underground sources of drinking water will be protected. The Permit is issued for ten (10) years unless modified or terminated.

This Permit once issued, will authorize the operation of a new injection well. Operation of the well(s) will be governed by the requirements and conditions specified in the Permit.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The requirements and conditions of the Draft Permit are tentative, and are open to comment from any interested party. Persons wishing to comment upon or object to any aspect of proposal are invited to submit comments, IN WRITING, within 30 days of the Date of Publication found below :

Wendy Cheung  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ground Water Program, 8P-W-UIC  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129  
Telephone: 1-800-227-8917 ext. 312-6242

The Administrative Record, including the application, the Draft Permit and Statement of Basis prepared by the EPA, and public comments received, is available for public inspection at the above location(s) weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Draft Permit and Statement of Basis will also be available on the Region 8 UIC webpage: <http://www.epa.gov/region8/water/uic>

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Within the thirty (30) day period, any interested person may request a public hearing as provided by 40 CFR § 124.12. A request for a hearing must be made IN WRITING to the above address and must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised at the hearing. A public hearing will be held only if significant interest is shown.

**FINAL PERMIT DECISION**

All comments received within the thirty (30) day period will be considered in the Final decision. The decision may be to: issue, modify, or deny the Permit. The Final decision shall become effective thirty (30) days after issuance unless no commenters requested changes to the Draft Permit, in which case the Permit shall become effective immediately upon issuance.

**APPEALS**

Within thirty (30) days after a Final decision has been issued, any person who filed comments on the Draft decision or who participated in a public hearing may petition the Administrator to review the final decision. Any person who failed to file comments or failed to participate in the public hearing may petition for administrative review only to the extent of the changes from the Draft to the Final Permit decision. Commenters are referred to 40 CFR §§ 124.15 through 124.20 for procedural requirements of the appeal process.

May 17, 2002  
Date of Publication