



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202-1129  
Phone 800-227-8917  
www.epa.gov/region08

APR 11 2016

Ref: 8P-W-UIC

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Kelly Bott  
Regulatory and Environmental Manager  
Ultra Resources, Inc.  
116 Inverness Drive East, Suite 400  
Englewood, Colorado 80112

Re: Draft Permit  
EPA UIC Permit UT22342-11076  
Well: TR2-223-820  
NESW Sec. 2-T8S-R20E  
Uintah County, Utah  
API No.: 43-047-539461

Dear Ms. Bott:

Please find enclosed a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Draft Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permit for the TR2-223-820 injection well, operating in the portion of the Three Rivers Field located within the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in Uintah County, Utah. Also enclosed are copies of the Statement of Basis for the proposed action and the Public Notice appearing on the EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/uic/underground-injection-control-epa-region-8-co-mt-nd-sd-ut-and-wy>.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 regulations and procedures for issuing UIC Permit decisions are found in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 124 (40 CFR §124). These regulations and procedures require a Public Notice and the opportunity for the public to comment on this proposed UIC Permit decision. The public comment period will run for at least thirty (30) days and courtesy announcements of the comment period, also enclosed, will be published in the following newspapers:

*The Vernal Express, Vernal*  
*The Uinta Basin Standard, Roosevelt*

A Final Decision will not be made until after the close of the comment period. All relevant comments will be taken into consideration. If any substantial comments are received the Effective Date of the Final Permit will be delayed for an additional thirty (30) days, as required by 40 CFR §124.15(b), to allow for any potential appeal of the Final Permit decision.

If you have any questions or comments about the proposed permit, please contact William Gallant of my staff at the letterhead address citing "Mail Code 8P-W-UIC." You may also contact Mr. Gallant by email at [gallant.william@epa.gov](mailto:gallant.william@epa.gov) or by telephone at (800) 227-8917, extension 312-6455.

Sincerely,



Douglas Minter  
Chief, Underground Injection Control Unit  
Office of Partnerships and Regulatory Assistance

Enclosures

cc: Uintah & Ouray Business Committee  
Honorable Shaun Chappoose, Chairman, Ute Indian Tribe  
Edred Secakuku, Vice Chairman, Ute Indian Tribe  
Reannin Tapoof, Executive Assistant, Ute Indian Tribe

Bartholomew Stevens  
BIA - Uintah & Ouray Indian Agency

Bart Powaukee  
Environmental Director  
Ute Indian Tribe

Minnie Grant  
Air Quality Coordinator  
Ute Indian Tribe

Bruce Pargeets  
Assistant Director of Energy & Minerals Department  
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Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

Steve Bloch  
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

Landon Newell  
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

**UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PROGRAM  
PERMIT**

PREPARED: March 2016

**DRAFT**

**Permit No. UT22342-11076**

**Class II Enhanced Oil Recovery Injection Well  
TR 2-223-820  
Uintah County, UT**

Issued To  
**Ultra Resources, Inc.**  
116 Inverness Drive East, Suite 400  
Englewood, CO 80112

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## Part I. AUTHORIZATION TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act and Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program regulations of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) codified at Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR) Parts 2, 124, 144, 146, and 147, and according to the terms of this Permit,

Ultra Resources, Inc.  
116 Inverness Drive East, Suite 400  
Englewood, CO 80112

is authorized to construct and to operate the following Class II injection well or wells:

TR 2-223-820  
1320 feet from the South Line, 1980 feet from the West Line, NESW S2, T8S, R20E  
Uintah County, UT

EPA regulates the injection of fluids into injection wells so that injection does not endanger underground sources of drinking water (USDWs). EPA UIC Permit conditions are based on authorities set forth at 40 CFR Parts 144 and 146, and address potential impacts to USDWs.

Under 40 CFR Part 144, Subpart D, certain conditions apply to all UIC Permits and may be incorporated either expressly or by reference. General permit conditions for which the content is mandatory and not subject to site-specific differences are not discussed in this document. Issuance of this Permit does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privilege, nor does it authorize injury to persons or property or invasion of other private rights, or any infringement of other Federal, State or local laws or regulations. (40 CFR §144.35) An EPA UIC Permit may be issued for the operating life of the injection well or project unless terminated for reasonable cause under 40 CFR §144.39, 144.40 and 144.41, and may be reviewed at least once every five (5) years to determine if action is required under 40 CFR §144.36(a).

This Permit is issued for the life of the well(s) unless modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated under 40 CFR §144.39 or 144.40. This EPA Permit may be adopted, modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated if primary enforcement authority for a UIC Program is delegated to an Indian Tribe or State. Upon the effective date of delegation, reports, notifications, questions and other correspondence should be directed to the Indian Tribe or State

Issue Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Effective Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Darcy O'Connor  
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator  
Office of Partnerships and Regulatory Assistance

\*NOTE: The person holding this title is referred to as the "Director" throughout this Permit.

## PART II. SPECIFIC PERMIT CONDITIONS

### Section A. WELL CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

These requirements represent the approved minimum construction standards for well casing and cement, injection tubing, and packer.

Details of the approved well construction plan are incorporated into this Permit as APPENDIX A. Changes to the approved plan that may occur during construction must be approved by the Director prior to being physically incorporated.

#### **1. Casing and Cement.**

The well or wells shall be cased and cemented to prevent the movement of fluids into or between underground sources of drinking water. The well casing and cement shall be designed for the life expectancy of the well and of the grade and size shown in APPENDIX A. Remedial cementing may be required if shown to be inadequate by cement bond log or other attempted demonstration of Part II (External) mechanical integrity.

#### **2. Injection Tubing and Packer.**

Injection tubing is required, and shall be run and set with a packer at or below the depth indicated in APPENDIX A. The packer setting depth may be changed provided it remains below the depth indicated in APPENDIX A and the Permittee provides notice and obtains the Director's approval for the change.

#### **3. Sampling and Monitoring Devices.**

The Permittee shall install and maintain in good operating condition:

- (a) a "tap" at a conveniently accessible location on the injection flow line between the pump house or storage tanks and the injection well, isolated by shut-off valves, for collection of representative samples of the injected fluid; and
- (b) one-half (1/2) inch female iron pipe fitting, isolated by shut-off valves and located at the wellhead at a conveniently accessible location, for the attachment of a pressure gauge capable of monitoring pressures ranging from normal operating pressures up to the Maximum Allowable Injection Pressure specified in APPENDIX C:
  - (i) on the injection tubing; and
  - (ii) on the tubing-casing annulus (TCA); and
- (c) a pressure actuated shut-off device attached to the injection flow line set to shut-off the injection pump when or before the Maximum Allowable Injection Pressure (MAIP) specified in APPENDIX C is reached at the wellhead; and
- (d) a non-resettable cumulative volume recorder attached to the injection line.

#### **4. Well Logging and Testing**

Well logging and testing requirements are found in APPENDIX B. The Permittee shall ensure the log and test requirements are performed within the time frames specified in APPENDIX B. Well logs and tests shall be performed according to current EPA-approved procedures. Well log and test results shall be submitted to the Director within sixty (60) days of completion of the logging or testing activity, and shall include a report describing the methods used during logging or testing and an interpretation of the test or log results.

#### **5. Postponement of Construction or Conversion**

The Permittee shall complete well construction within one year of the Effective Date of the Permit, or in the case of an Area Permit within one year of Authorization of the additional well. Authorization to construct and operate shall expire if the well has not been constructed within one year of the Effective Date of the Permit or Authorization and the Permit may be terminated under 40 CFR 144.40, unless the Permittee has notified the Director and requested an extension prior to expiration. Notification shall be in writing, and shall state the reasons for the delay and provide an estimated completion date. Once Authorization has expired under this part, the complete permit process including opportunity for public comment may be required before Authorization to construct and operate may be reissued.

#### **6. Workovers and Alterations**

Workovers and alterations shall meet all conditions of the Permit. Prior to beginning any addition or physical alteration to an injection well that may significantly affect the tubing, packer or casing, the Permittee shall give advance notice to the Director and obtain the Director's approval. The Permittee shall record all changes to well construction on a Well Rework Record (EPA Form 7520-12), and shall provide this and any other record of well workover, logging, or test data to EPA within sixty (60) days of completion of the activity.

A successful demonstration of Part I MI is required following the completion of any well workover or alteration which affects the casing, tubing, or packer. Injection operations shall not be resumed until the well has successfully demonstrated mechanical integrity and the Director has provided written approval to resume injection.

### **Section B. MECHANICAL INTEGRITY**

The Permittee is required to ensure each injection well maintains mechanical integrity at all times. The Director, by written notice, may require the Permittee to comply with a schedule describing when mechanical integrity demonstrations shall be made.

An injection well has mechanical integrity if:

- (a) There is no significant leak in the casing, tubing, or packer (Part I); and
- (b) There is no significant fluid movement into an underground source of drinking water through vertical channels adjacent to the injection well bore (Part II).

**1. Demonstration of Mechanical Integrity (MI).**

The operator shall demonstrate MI prior to commencing injection and periodically thereafter. Well-specific conditions dictate the methods and the frequency for demonstrating MI and are discussed in the Statement of Basis. The logs and tests are designed to demonstrate both internal (Part I) and external (Part II) MI as described above. The conditions present at this well site warrant the methods and frequency required in Appendix B of this Permit.

In addition to these regularly scheduled demonstrations of MI, the operator shall demonstrate internal (Part I) MI after any workover which affects the tubing, packer or casing.

The Director may require additional or alternative tests if the results presented by the operator are not satisfactory to the Director to demonstrate there is no movement of fluid into or between USDWs resulting from injection activity. Results of MI tests shall be submitted to the Director as soon as possible but no later than sixty (60) days after the test

**2. Mechanical Integrity Test Methods and Criteria**

EPA-approved methods shall be used to demonstrate mechanical integrity. Ground Water Section Guidance No. 34 "Cement Bond Logging Techniques and Interpretation", Ground Water Section Guidance No. 37, "Demonstrating Part II (External) Mechanical Integrity for a Class II injection well permit", and Ground Water Section Guidance No. 39, "Pressure Testing Injection Wells for Part I (Internal) Mechanical Integrity" are available from EPA and will be provided upon request.

The Director may stipulate specific test methods and criteria best suited for a specific well construction and injection operation.

**3. Notification Prior to Testing.**

The Permittee shall notify the Director at least seven calendar days prior to any mechanical integrity test unless the mechanical integrity test is conducted after a well construction, well conversion, or a well rework, in which case any prior notice is sufficient. The Director may allow a shorter notification period if it would be sufficient to enable EPA to witness the mechanical integrity test. Notification may be in the form of a yearly or quarterly schedule of planned mechanical integrity tests, or it may be on an individual basis.

**4. Loss of Mechanical Integrity.**

If the well fails to demonstrate mechanical integrity during a test, or a loss of mechanical integrity becomes evident during operation (such as presence of pressure in the TCA, water flowing at the surface, etc.), the Permittee shall notify the Director within 24 hours (see Part III Section E Paragraph 11(e) of this Permit) and the well shall be shut-in within 48 hours unless the Director requires immediate shut-in.

Within five days, the Permittee shall submit a follow-up written report that documents test results, repairs undertaken or a proposed remedial action plan.

Injection operations shall not be resumed until after the well has successfully been repaired and demonstrated mechanical integrity, and the Director has provided approval to resume injection.

### **Section C. WELL OPERATION**

INJECTION BETWEEN THE OUTERMOST CASING PROTECTING UNDERGROUND SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER AND THE WELL BORE IS PROHIBITED.

Injection is approved under the following conditions:

#### **1. Requirements Prior to Commencing Injection.**

Well injection, including for new wells authorized by an Area Permit under 40 CFR 144.33 (c), may commence only after all well construction and pre-injection requirements herein have been met and approved. The Permittee may not commence injection until construction is complete, and

- (a) The Permittee has submitted to the Director a notice of completion of construction and a completed EPA Form 7520-10 or 7520-12; all applicable logging and testing requirements of this Permit (see APPENDIX B) have been fulfilled and the records submitted to the Director; mechanical integrity pursuant to 40 CFR 146.8 and Part II Section B of this Permit has been demonstrated; and
  - (i) The Director has inspected or otherwise reviewed the new injection well and finds it is in compliance with the conditions of the Permit; or
  - (ii) The Permittee has not received notice from the Director of his or her intent to inspect or otherwise review the new injection well within 13 days of the date of the notice in Paragraph 1a, in which case prior inspection or review is waived and the Permittee may commence injection.

#### **2. Injection Interval.**

Injection is permitted only within the approved injection interval, listed in APPENDIX C. Additional individual injection perforations may be added provided that they remain within the approved injection interval and the Permittee provides notice to the Director in accordance with Part II, Section A, Paragraph 6.

#### **3. Injection Pressure Limitation**

- (a) The permitted Maximum Allowable Injection Pressure (MAIP), measured at the wellhead, is found in APPENDIX C. Injection pressure shall not exceed the amount the Director determines is appropriate to ensure that injection does not initiate new fractures or propagate existing fractures in the confining zone adjacent to USDWs. In no case shall injection pressure cause the movement of injection or formation fluids into a USDW.
- (b) The Permittee may request a change of the MAIP, or the MAIP may be increased or decreased by the Director in order to ensure that the requirements in Paragraph (a) above are fulfilled. The Permittee may be required to conduct a step rate injection test or other suitable test to provide information for determining the fracture pressure of the injection zone. Change of the permitted MAIP by the Director shall be by modification of this Permit and APPENDIX C.

**4. Injection Volume Limitation.**

Injection volume is limited to the total volume specified in APPENDIX C.

**5. Injection Fluid Limitation.**

Injected fluids are limited to those identified in 40 CFR 144.6(b)(2) as fluids used for enhanced recovery of oil or natural gas, including those which are brought to the surface in connection with conventional oil or natural gas production that may be commingled with waste waters from gas plants which are an integral part of production operations unless those waters are classified as a hazardous waste at the time of injection, pursuant to 40 CFR 144.6(b). Non-exempt wastes, including unused fracturing fluids or acids, gas plant cooling tower cleaning wastes, service wastes and vacuum truck wastes, are NOT approved for injection. This well is NOT approved for commercial brine injection, industrial waste fluid disposal or injection of hazardous waste as defined by CFR 40 Part 261. The Permittee shall provide a listing of the sources of injected fluids in accordance with the reporting requirements in Part II Section D Paragraph 4 and APPENDIX D of this Permit.

**6. Tubing-Casing Annulus (TCA)**

The tubing-casing annulus (TCA) shall be filled with water treated with a corrosion inhibitor, or other fluid approved by the Director. The TCA valve shall remain closed during normal operating conditions and the TCA pressure shall be maintained at zero (0) psi.

If TCA pressure cannot be maintained at zero (0) psi, the Permittee shall follow the procedures in Ground Water Section Guidance No. 35 "Procedures to follow when excessive annular pressure is observed on a well."

**Section D. MONITORING, RECORDKEEPING, AND REPORTING OF RESULTS**

**1. Monitoring Parameters, Frequency, Records and Reports.**

Monitoring parameters are specified in APPENDIX D. Pressure monitoring recordings shall be taken at the wellhead. The listed parameters are to be monitored, recorded and reported at the frequency indicated in APPENDIX D even during periods when the well is not operating.

Monitoring records must include:

- (a) the date, time, exact place and the results of the observation, sampling, measurement, or analysis, and;
- (b) the name of the individual(s) who performed the observation, sampling, measurement, or analysis, and;
- (c) the analytical techniques or methods used for analysis.

**2. Monitoring Methods.**

- (a) Monitoring observations, measurements, samples, etc. taken for the purpose of complying with these requirements shall be representative of the activity or condition being monitored.

- (b) Methods used to monitor the nature of the injected fluids must comply with analytical methods cited and described in Table 1 of 40 CFR 136.3 or Appendix III of 40 CFR 261, or by other methods that have been approved in writing by the Director.
- (c) Injection pressure, annulus pressure, injection rate, and cumulative injected volumes shall be observed and recorded at the wellhead under normal operating conditions, and all parameters shall be observed simultaneously to provide a clear depiction of well operation.
- (d) Pressures are to be measured in pounds per square inch (psi).
- (e) Fluid volumes are to be measured in standard oil field barrels (bbl).
- (f) Fluid rates are to be measured in barrels per day (bbl/day).

### **3. Records Retention.**

- (a) Records of calibration and maintenance, and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for this permit shall be retained for a period of AT LEAST THREE (3) YEARS from the date of the sample, measurement, report, or application. This period may be extended anytime prior to its expiration by request of the Director.
- (b) Records of the nature and composition of all injected fluids must be retained until three (3) years after the completion of any plugging and abandonment (P&A) procedures specified under 40 CFR 144.52(a)(6) or under Part 146 Subpart G, as appropriate. The Director may require the Permittee to deliver the records to the Director at the conclusion of the retention period. The Permittee shall continue to retain the records after the three (3) year retention period unless the Permittee delivers the records to the Director or obtains written approval from the Director to discard the records.

### **4. Annual Reports.**

Whether the well is operating or not, the Permittee shall submit an Annual Report to the Director that summarizes the results of the monitoring required by Part II Section D and APPENDIX D.

The first Annual Report shall cover the period from the effective date of the Permit through December 31 of that year. Subsequent Annual Reports shall cover the period from January 1 through December 31 of the reporting year. Annual Reports shall be submitted by February 15 of the year following data collection. EPA Form 7520-11 may be copied and shall be used to submit the Annual Report, however, the monitoring requirements specified in this Permit are mandatory even if EPA Form 7520-11 indicates otherwise.

## **Section E. PLUGGING AND ABANDONMENT**

**1. Notification of Well Abandonment, Conversion or Closure.**

The Permittee shall notify the Director in writing at least forty-five (45) days prior to: 1) plugging and abandoning an injection well, 2) converting to a non-injection well, and 3) in the case of an Area Permit, before closure of the project.

**2. Well Plugging Requirements**

Prior to abandonment, the injection well shall be plugged with cement in a manner which isolates the injection zone and prevents the movement of fluids into or between underground sources of drinking water, and in accordance with 40 CFR 146.10 and other applicable Federal, State or local law or regulations. Tubing, packer and other downhole apparatus shall be removed. Cement with additives such as accelerators and retarders that control or enhance cement properties may be used for plugs; however, volume-extending additives and gel cements are not approved for plug use. Plug placement shall be verified by tagging. Plugging gel of at least 9.2 lb/gal shall be placed between all plugs. A minimum 50 ft surface plug shall be set inside and outside of the surface casing to seal pathways for fluid migration into the subsurface. The Plugging Record must be certified as accurate and complete by the person responsible for the plugging operation. Prior to placement of the cement plug(s) the well shall be in a state of static equilibrium with the mud weight equalized top to bottom, either by circulating the mud in the well at least once or by a comparable method prescribed by the Director.

**3. Approved Plugging and Abandonment Plan.**

The approved plugging and abandonment plan is incorporated into this Permit as APPENDIX E. Changes to the approved plugging and abandonment plan must be approved by the Director prior to beginning plugging operations. The Director also may require revision of the approved plugging and abandonment plan at any time prior to plugging the

**4. Forty Five (45) Day Notice of Plugging and Abandonment.**

The Permittee shall notify the Director at least forty-five (45) days prior to plugging and abandoning a well and provide notice of any anticipated change to the approved plugging and abandonment plan.

**5. Plugging and Abandonment Report.**

Within sixty (60) days after plugging a well, the Permittee shall submit a report (EPA Form 7520-13) to the Director. The plugging report shall be certified as accurate by the person who performed the plugging operation. Such report shall consist of either:

- (a) A statement that the well was plugged in accordance with the approved plugging and abandonment plan; or
- (b) Where actual plugging differed from the approved plugging and abandonment plan, an updated version of the plan, on the form supplied by the Director, specifying the differences.

**6. Inactive Wells.**

After any period of two years during which there is no injection the Permittee shall plug and abandon the well in accordance with Part II Section E Paragraph 2 of this Permit unless the Permittee:

- (a) Provides written notice to the Director;
- (b) Describes the actions or procedures the Permittee will take to ensure that the well will not endanger USDWs during the period of inactivity. These actions and procedures shall include compliance with mechanical integrity demonstration, Financial Responsibility and all other permit requirements designed to protect USDWs; and
- (c) Receives written notice by the Director temporarily waiving plugging and abandonment requirements.

## PART III. CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

### Section A. EFFECT OF PERMIT

The Permittee is allowed to engage in underground injection in accordance with the conditions of this Permit. The Permittee shall not construct, operate, maintain, convert, plug, abandon, or conduct any other activity in a manner that allows the movement of fluid containing any contaminant into underground sources of drinking water, if the presence of that contaminant may cause a violation of any primary drinking water regulation under 40 CFR 142 or may otherwise adversely affect the health of persons. Any underground injection activity not authorized by this Permit or by rule is prohibited. Issuance of this Permit does not convey property rights of any sort or any exclusive privilege; nor does it authorize any injury to persons or property, any invasion of other private rights, or any infringement of any other Federal, State or local law or regulations. Compliance with the terms of this Permit does not constitute a defense to any enforcement action brought under the provisions of Section 1431 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) or any other law governing protection of public health or the environment, for any imminent and substantial endangerment to human health or the environment, nor does it serve as a shield to the Permittee's independent obligation to comply with all UIC regulations. Nothing in this Permit relieves the Permittee of any duties under applicable regulations.

### Section B. CHANGES TO PERMIT CONDITIONS

#### **1. Modification, Reissuance, or Termination.**

The Director may, for cause or upon a request from the Permittee, modify, revoke and reissue, or terminate this Permit in accordance with 40 CFR 124.5, 144.12, 144.39, and 144.40. Also, this Permit is subject to minor modification for causes as specified in 40 CFR 144.41. The filing of a request for modification, revocation and reissuance, termination, or the notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance on the part of the Permittee does not stay the applicability or enforceability of any condition of this Permit.

#### **2. Conversions.**

The Director may, for cause or upon a written request from the Permittee, allow conversion of the well from a Class II injection well to a non-Class II well. Conversion may not proceed until the Permittee receives written approval from the Director. Conditions of such conversion may include but are not limited to, approval of the proposed well rework, follow up demonstration of mechanical integrity, well-specific monitoring and reporting following the conversion, and demonstration of practical use of the converted configuration.

#### **3. Transfer of Permit.**

Under 40 CFR 144.38, this Permit is transferable provided the current Permittee notifies the Director at least thirty (30) days in advance of the proposed transfer date (EPA Form 7520-7) and provides a written agreement between the existing and new Permittees containing a specific date for transfer of Permit responsibility, coverage and liability between them. The notice shall adequately demonstrate that the financial responsibility requirements of 40 CFR 144.52(a)(7) will be met by the new Permittee. The Director may require modification or revocation and reissuance of the Permit to change the name of the Permittee and incorporate such other requirements as may be necessary under the Safe Drinking Water Act; in some cases, modification or revocation and reissuance is mandatory.

#### **4. Permittee Change of Address.**

Upon the Permittee's change of address, or whenever the operator changes the address where monitoring records are kept, the Permittee must provide written notice to the Director within 30 days.

#### **5. Construction Changes, Workovers, Logging and Testing Data**

The Permittee shall give advance notice to the Director, and shall obtain the Director's written approval prior to any physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility. Alterations or workovers shall meet all conditions as set forth in this permit. The Permittee shall record any changes to the well construction on a Well Rework Record (EPA Form 7520-12), and shall provide this and any other record of well workovers, logging, or test data to EPA within sixty (60) days of completion of the activity.

Following the completion of any well workovers or alterations which affect the casing, tubing, or packer, a successful demonstration of mechanical integrity (Part III, Section F of this Permit) shall be made, and written authorization from the Director received, prior to resuming injection activities.

### **Section C. SEVERABILITY**

The Provisions of this Permit are severable, and if any provision of this Permit or the application of any provision of this Permit to any circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of this Permit shall not be affected thereby.

### **Section D. CONFIDENTIALITY**

In accordance with 40 CFR Part 2 and 40 CFR 144.5, information submitted to EPA pursuant to this Permit may be claimed as confidential by the submitter. Any such claim must be asserted at the time of submission by stamping the words "confidential business information" on each page containing such information. If no claim is made at the time of submission, EPA may make the information available to the public without further notice. If a claim is asserted, the validity of the claim will be assessed in accordance with the procedures in 40 CFR Part 2 (Public Information). Claims of confidentiality for the following information will be denied:

- The name and address of the Permittee, and
- information which deals with the existence, absence or level of contaminants in drinking water.

### **Section E. GENERAL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

#### **1. Duty to Comply.**

The Permittee must comply with all conditions of this Permit. Any noncompliance constitutes a violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and is grounds for enforcement action; for Permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or for denial of a permit renewal application; except that the Permittee need not comply with the provisions of this Permit to the extent and for the duration such noncompliance is authorized in an emergency permit under 40 CFR 144.34. All violations of the SDWA may subject the Permittee to penalties and/or criminal prosecution as specified in Section 1423 of the SDWA.

**2. Duty to Reapply.**

If the Permittee wishes to continue an activity regulated by this Permit after the expiration date of this Permit, under 40 CFR 144.37 the Permittee must apply for a new permit prior to the expiration date.

**3. Need to Halt or Reduce Activity Not a Defense.**

It shall not be a defense for a Permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this Permit.

**4. Duty to Mitigate.**

The Permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or correct any adverse impact on the environment resulting from noncompliance with this Permit.

**5. Proper Operation and Maintenance.**

The Permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the Permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Permit. Proper operation and maintenance includes effective performance, adequate funding, adequate operator staffing and training, and adequate laboratory and process controls, including appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems only when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Permit.

**6. Permit Actions.**

This Permit may be modified, revoked and reissued or terminated for cause. The filing of a request by the Permittee for a permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance, does not stay any permit condition.

**7. Property Rights.**

This Permit does not convey any property rights of any sort, or any exclusive privilege.

**8. Duty to Provide Information.**

The Permittee shall furnish to the Director, within a time specified, any information which the Director may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this permit, or to determine compliance with this permit. The Permittee shall also furnish to the Director, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this Permit. The Permittee is required to submit any information required by this Permit or by the Director to the mailing address designated in writing by the Director.

**9. Inspection and Entry.**

The Permittee shall allow the Director, or an authorized representative, upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:

- (a) Enter upon the Permittee's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records must be kept under the conditions of this Permit;

- (b) Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this Permit;
- (c) Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Permit; and,
- (d) Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purpose of assuring permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by the SDWA, any substances or parameters at any location.

**10. Signatory Requirements.**

All applications, reports or other information submitted to the Director shall be signed and certified according to 40 CFR 144.32. This section explains the requirements for persons duly authorized to sign documents, and provides wording for required certification.

**11. Reporting Requirements.**

- (a) Planned changes. The Permittee shall give notice to the Director as soon as possible of any planned changes, physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility, and prior to commencing such changes.
- (b) Anticipated noncompliance. The Permittee shall give advance notice to the Director of any planned changes in the permitted facility or activity which may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.
- (c) Monitoring Reports. Monitoring results shall be reported at the intervals specified in this Permit.
- (d) Compliance schedules. Reports of compliance or noncompliance with, or any progress reports on, interim and final requirements contained in any compliance schedule of this Permit shall be submitted no later than 30 days following each schedule date.
- (e) Twenty-four hour reporting. The Permittee shall report to the Director any noncompliance which may endanger human health or the environment, including:
  - (i) Any monitoring or other information which indicates that any contaminant may cause endangerment to a USDW; or
  - (ii) Any noncompliance with a permit condition or malfunction of the injection system which may cause fluid migration into or between

Information shall be provided, either directly or by leaving a message, within twenty-four (24) hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances by telephoning (800) 227-8917 and requesting EPA Region VIII UIC Program Compliance and Technical Enforcement Director, or by contacting the EPA Region VIII Emergency Operations Center at (303) 293-1788.

In addition, a follow up written report shall be provided to the Director within five (5) days of the time the Permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. The written submission shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause, the period of noncompliance including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance has not been corrected the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and the steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance.

- (f) Oil Spill and Chemical Release Reporting: The Permittee shall comply with all reporting requirements related to the occurrence of oil spills and chemical releases by contacting the National Response Center (NRC) at (800) 424-8802, (202) 267-2675, or through the NRC website
- (g) Other Noncompliance. The Permittee shall report all instances of noncompliance not reported under paragraphs Part III, Section E Paragraph 11(b) or Section E, Paragraph 11(e) at the time the monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information listed in Paragraph 11(e) of this Section.
- (h) Other information. Where the Permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in the permit application, or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the Director, the Permittee shall promptly submit such facts or information to the Director.

## **Section F. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

### ***1. Method of Providing Financial Responsibility.***

The Permittee shall maintain continuous compliance with the requirement to maintain financial responsibility and resources to close, plug, and abandon the underground injection well(s). No substitution of a demonstration of financial responsibility shall become effective until the Permittee receives written notification from the Director that the alternative demonstration of financial responsibility is acceptable. The Director may, on a periodic basis, require the holder of a permit to revise the estimate of the resources needed to plug and abandon the well to reflect changes in such costs and may require the Permittee to provide a revised demonstration of financial responsibility.

### ***2. Insolvency.***

In the event of:

- (a) the bankruptcy of the trustee or issuing institution of the financial mechanism; or
- (b) suspension or revocation of the authority of the trustee institution to act as trustee; or

- (c) the institution issuing the financial mechanism losing its authority to issue such an instrument

the Permittee must notify the Director in writing, within ten (10) business days, and the Permittee must establish other financial assurance or liability coverage acceptable to the Director within sixty (60) days after any event specified in (a), (b), or (c) above.

The Permittee must also notify the Director by certified mail of the commencement of voluntary or involuntary proceedings under Title 11 (Bankruptcy), U.S. Code naming the owner or operator as debtor, within ten (10) business days after the commencement of the proceeding. A guarantor, if named as debtor of a corporate guarantee, must make such a notification as required under the terms of the guarantee.

## APPENDIX A

### WELL CONSTRUCTION

#### General:

The Three Rivers 2-223-820 well was drilled as a partially deviated production well to a total vertical depth (TVD) of 6,773 feet, or measured depth (MD) of 6,847 feet.

#### FORMATION DATA:

Based upon the Utah Geological Survey Special Study 144 the base of the moderately Saline Groundwater is interpreted to be about 1,500 feet Below Ground Surface (BGS) at the approximate location of the proposed injector in Section 2, T8S, R20E.

#### CONFINING ZONE

##### Upper Confining Zone:

The upper confining zone is a regionally continuous interval that contains low porosity mudstones and siltstones. The top of the Lower Green River or base of the Upper Confining layer is about 4,970 feet MD in TR2-223-820. The top of the upper confining layer is about 4,928 feet MD or a thickness of 42 feet.

##### Lower Confining Zone:

The top of the lower confining layer is about at 6,684 feet MD in TR2-223-820. The base of the lower confining layer is about 6,729 feet MD or about 55 feet thick and is at the contact of the underlying Wasatch Formation.

Permitted Injection Zone: Lower Green River from 4,922 feet – 6,636 feet TVD or 4,970 – 6,684 MD.

#### WELL CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS:

Conductor Casing: 16 inch diameter, Grade J-55, 75 lbs/ft, Depth from 0-130 feet (MD).

Surface Casing: 8.625 inch diameter, Grade J-55, 24lbs/ft, Depth from 0-922 feet (MD).

Surface Casing cemented from 922 feet (MD) to surface.

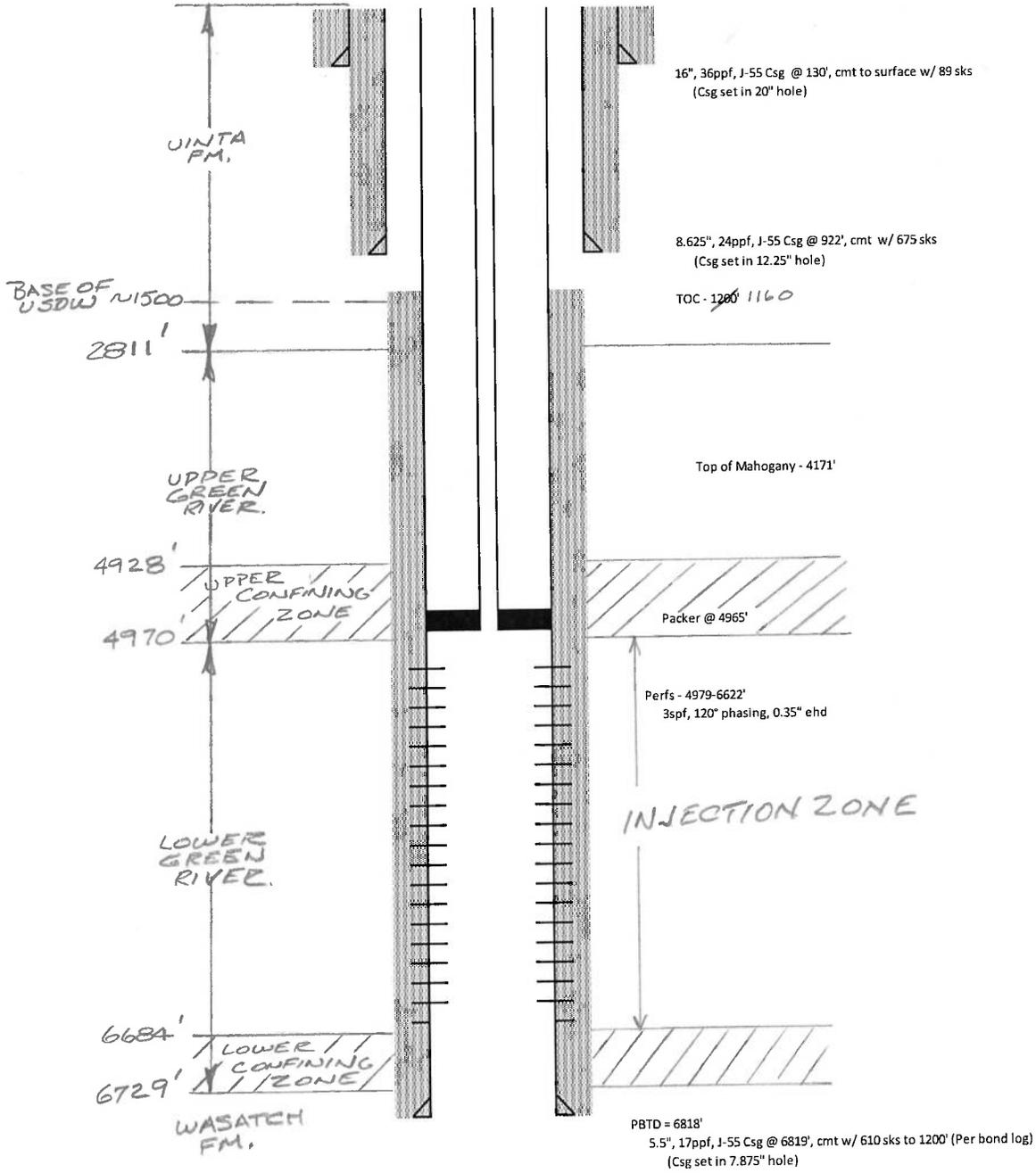
Production Casing: 5.50 inch diameter, Grade J-55, 17lbs/ft, Depth from 0-6,819 feet (MD). Top of cement on backside of production casing from 1,160 MD feet to Total Depth (TD)

Injection Tubing: Depth from 0-4,970 feet (MD).

Perforations: between 4,979 feet – 6,622 feet(MD)

Injection Tubing and packer will be installed no higher than 100 feet from the top open perforation.

Three Rivers 2-223-820  
Uintah County, UT  
Proposed Injector Plan



DRAFT PERMIT  
REVISED 2/12/16

A-2

NOT TO SCALE

## APPENDIX B

### LOGGING AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS

#### Logs.

Logs will be conducted according to current UIC guidance. It is the responsibility of the Permittee to obtain and use guidance prior to conducting any well logging required as a condition of this permit.

**WELL NAME:** TR 16-26T-820

**TYPE OF LOG**

Porosity

CBL/VDL/GAMMA RAY

RATS

**DATE DUE**

Prior to receiving authorization to inject

Prior to receiving authorization to inject

If CBL does not show Part II MI, RATS is req'd prior to authorization to inject ( unless a limited authorization to inject is obtained in order to produce a valid test) and at least once every 5 years after the last successful demonstration of Part II MI

#### Tests.

Tests will be conducted according to current UIC guidance. It is the responsibility of the Permittee to obtain and use guidance prior to conducting any well test required as a condition of this permit.

**WELL NAME:** TR 16-26T-820

**TYPE OF TEST**

Standard Annulus Pressure

Injection Zone Water Sample

Cement Records

Step Rate Test

Pore Pressure

**DATE DUE**

Prior to authorization to inject and at least once every five (5) years after the last successful demonstration of Part I Mechanical Integrity.

Prior to receiving authorization to inject , a representative sample (stabilized specific conductivity from three successive swab runs) from the injection zone with be analyzed for TDS, pH, Specific Gravity and Specific Conductivity

Prior to receiving authorization to inject.

Prior to receiving authorization to inject. The SRT shall be performed following current EPA guidance

Prior to receiving authorization to inject.

# APPENDIX C

## OPERATING REQUIREMENTS

**MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE INJECTION PRESSURE:**

Maximum Allowable Injection Pressure (MAIP) as measured at the surface shall not exceed the pressure(s) listed below.

WELL NAME	MAXIMUM ALLOWED INJECTION PRESSURE (psi) ZONE 1 (Upper)
TR2-223-820	1,480

**INJECTION INTERVAL(S):**

Injection is permitted only within the approved injection interval listed below. Injection perforations may be altered provided they remain within the approved injection interval and the Permittee provides notice to the Director in accordance with Part II, Section A, Paragraph 6. Specific injection perforations can be found in Appendix A.

**WELL NAME:** TR2-223-820

FORMATION NAME	APPROVED INJECTION INTERVAL (KB, ft) TOP                  BOTTOM	FRACTURE GRADIENT (psi/ft)
Lower Green River	4,970.00 - 6,684.00	0.744

**ANNULUS PRESSURE:**

The annulus pressure shall be maintained at zero (0) psi as measured at the wellhead. If this pressure cannot be maintained, the Permittee shall follow the procedures listed under Part II, Section C. 6. of this permit.

**MAXIMUM INJECTION VOLUME:**

There is no limitation on the number of barrels per day (bbls/day) of water that shall be injected into this well, provided further that in no case shall injection pressure exceed that limit shown in Appendix C.

## APPENDIX D

### MONITORING AND REPORTING PARAMETERS

This is a listing of the parameters required to be observed, recorded, and reported. Refer to the permit Part II, Section D, for detailed requirements for observing, recording, and reporting these parameters.

#### OBSERVE MONTHLY AND RECORD AT LEAST ONCE EVERY THIRTY DAYS

	Injection pressure (psig)
<b>OBSERVE</b>	Annulus pressure(s) (psig) between tubing and long string
<b>AND</b>	Annulus pressure(s) (psig) between long string and outer casing
<b>RECORD</b>	Injection rate (bbl/day)
	Fluid volume injected since the well began injecting (bbls)

#### ANNUALLY

	Injected fluid total dissolved solids (mg/l)
	Injected fluid specific gravity
<b>ANALYZE</b>	Injected fluid specific conductivity
	Injected fluid pH

#### ANNUALLY

	Each month's maximum and averaged injection pressures (psig)
	Each month's maximum and minimum annulus pressure(s) (psig)
	Each month's injected volume (bbl)
<b>REPORT</b>	Fluid volume injected since the well began injecting (bbl)
	Written results of annual injected fluid analysis
	Sources of all fluids injected during the year

In addition to these items, additional Logging and Testing results may be required periodically. For a list of those items and their due dates, please refer to APPENDIX B - LOGGING AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS.

## APPENDIX E

### PLUGGING AND ABANDONMENT

Prior to plugging the well, pull tubing and packer, run a Mechanical Integrity Test, and repair any casing leaks.

At a minimum, the following plugs are required:

See diagram.

The well shall be plugged in a manner that isolates the injection zone and prevents movement of fluid into or between USDWs and in accordance with other applicable Federal, State, or local law or regulation. Tubing, packers, and any downhole apparatus shall be removed. Class A, C, G, and H cements with additives such as accelerators and retarders that control or enhance cement properties may be used for plugs. However, volume extending additives and gel cements are not approved for plug use. Plug placement shall be verified by tagging. Plugging gel of at least 9.2 lb/gal shall be placed between all plugs. Within 60 days after plugging, the owner or operator shall submit Plugging Record (EPA Form 7520-13) to the Director. The Plugging Record must be certified as accurate and complete by the person responsible for the plugging operation. At a minimum, the following plugs are required:

PLUG NO. 1: Seal Injection Zone: Set a Cast Iron Bridge Plug (CIBP) or a Cast Iron Cement Retainer (CICR) at a depth of ~ 6,729 feet (MD) at the base of the lower confining layer, The top of the cement plug should be 50 feet above the base of the injection zone or 4,920 feet (MD).

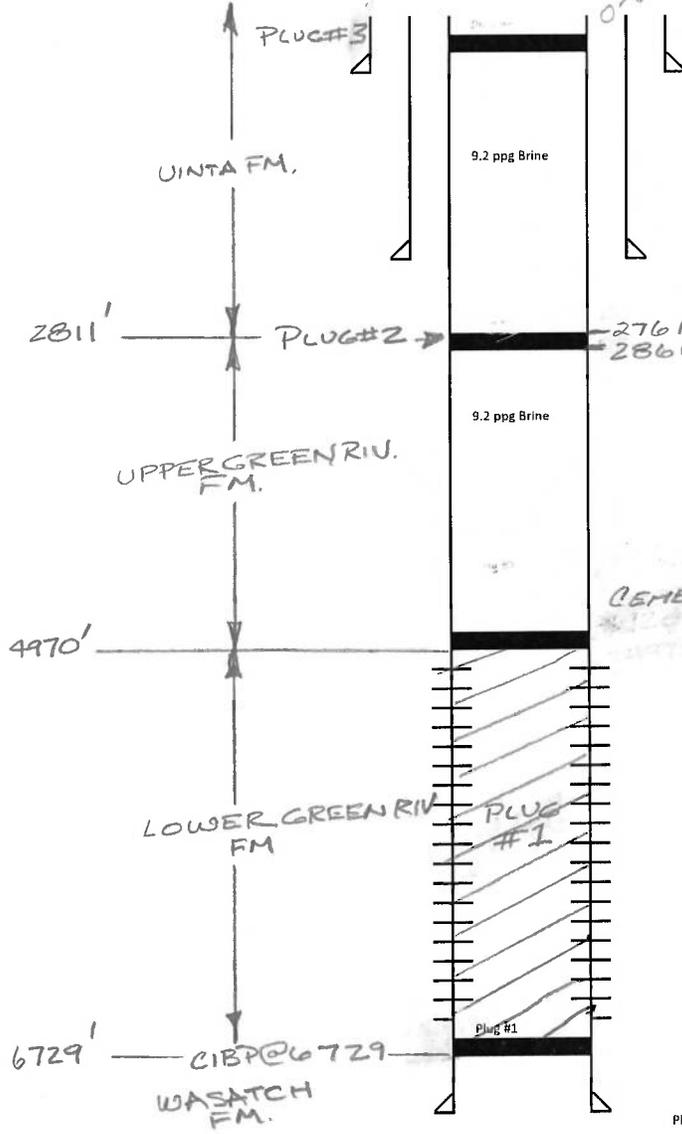
PLUG NO. 2: Seal Top of Green River/Base of Uinta: Place a cement plug across the casing from ~2,761 feet to ~2,861 feet (MD).

PLUG NO. 3: Seal the surface casing: Set CIBP at a depth of about 650 feet and place a cement plug across the casing from CIBP to the surface.

#### NOTES:

Plug placement must be verified by tagging the top of the plug after the cement has had adequate time to set, minimum of 72 hours.

Three Rivers 2-223-820  
 Uintah County, UT  
 Proposed P&A Plan



Marker Plate weld on casing stubs  
 10sks of Cement down 5.5"X8.625" Annulus  
 Cement Plug above CIBP to Surface (75 sks)  
 CIBP @ 650'  
 16", 36ppf, J-55 Csg @ 130', cmt to surface w/ 89 sks  
 (Csg set in 20" hole)

8.625", 24ppf, J-55 Csg @ 922', cmt w/ 675 sks  
 (Csg set in 12.25" hole)

TOC = 1160  
 Top of Cement Plug - 2761' (15sks)  
 Top of Upper Green River - 2811'  
 CIBP @ 2861'

Top of Cement Plug 4170' ( 86 sks)  
 Top of Mahogany - 4171'

CEMENT INTERVAL 4920'-6729' (PLUG.1)

Upper Confining Layer 4928 - 4958'

Perfs - 4979-6622'  
 3spf, 120" phasing, 0.35" ehd

Lower Confining Layer 6684-6729'

PBTD = 6818'  
 5.5", 17ppf, J-55 Csg @ 6819', cmt w/ 610 sks to 1200' (Per bond log)  
 (Csg set in 7.875" hole)

## APPENDIX F

### CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUIREMENTS

No corrective actions are currently required for the injection well and AOR wells.

# STATEMENT OF BASIS

**ULTRA RESOURCES, INC.**  
**TR 2-223-820**  
**UINTAH COUNTY, UT**

**EPA PERMIT NO. UT22342-11076**

**CONTACT:** William Gallant  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ground Water Program, 8P-W-GW  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129  
Telephone: 1-800-227-8917 ext. 312-6455

This STATEMENT OF BASIS gives the derivation of site-specific UIC Permit conditions and reasons for them. Referenced sections and conditions correspond to sections and conditions in the Permit.

EPA UIC permits regulate the injection of fluids into underground injection wells so that the injection does not endanger underground sources of drinking water. EPA UIC permit conditions are based upon the authorities set forth in regulatory provisions at 40 CFR Parts 144 and 146, and address potential impacts to underground sources of drinking water. Under 40 CFR 144.35 Issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privilege, nor authorize injury to persons or property of invasion of other private rights, or any infringement of other Federal, State or local laws or regulations. Under 40 CFR 144 Subpart D, certain conditions apply to all UIC Permits and may be incorporated either expressly or by reference. General Permit conditions for which the content is mandatory and not subject to site-specific differences (40 CFR Parts 144, 146 and 147) are not discussed in this document.

Upon the Effective Date when issued, the Permit authorizes the construction and operation of injection wells so that the injection does not endanger underground sources of drinking water, governed by the conditions specified in the Permit. The Permit is issued for the operating life of the injection well or project unless terminated for reasonable cause under 40 CFR 144.39, 144.40 and 144.41. The Permit is subject to EPA review at least once every five (5) years to determine if action is required under 40 CFR 144.36(a).

## **PART I. General Information and Description of Facility**

Ultra Resources, Inc.  
116 Inverness Drive East, Suite 400  
Englewood, CO 80112

on

December 21, 2015

submitted an application for an Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program Permit or Permit Modification for the following injection well or wells:

TR 2-223-820  
1320 feet from the South Line, 1980 feet from the West Line, NESW S2, T8S, R20E  
Uintah County, UT

Regulations specific to Uintah-Ouray Indian Reservation injection wells are found at 40 CFR 147 Subpart TT.

The application, including the required information and data necessary to issue or modify a UIC Permit in accordance with 40 CFR Parts 144, 146 and 147, was reviewed and determined by EPA to be complete.

The Permit will expire upon delegation of primary enforcement responsibility (primacy) for applicable portions of the UIC Program to the Ute Indian Tribe or the State of Utah unless the delegated agency has the authority and chooses to adopt and enforce this Permit as a Tribal or State Permit.

TABLE 1.1 shows the status of the well or wells as "New", "Existing", or "Conversion" and for Existing shows the original date of injection operation. Well authorization "by rule" under 40 CFR Part 144 Subpart C expires automatically on the Effective Date of an issued UIC Permit.

## **PART II. Permit Considerations (40 CFR 146.24)**

# Hydrogeologic Setting

## Hydrogeologic Setting

Based upon the Utah Geological Survey Special Study 144 the base of the moderately Saline Groundwater is interpreted to be about 1500 feet Below Ground Surface (BGS) in Section 2, T8S, R20E within the Uinta Formation. The base of the Uinta Formation being about 2,811 feet Measured Depth (MD).

Several domestic wells and irrigation wells are located in Sec 11, T8S, R20E about 1 mile to the south of the proposed injection well. These wells are shallow in the alluvium of the nearby Green River. One well is about 1 mile northwest of the proposed injection well along the boundary between Section 3, T8S, R20E and Section 34, T7S, R20E. The well is apparently <100 feet and apparently tap water bearing zones in the shallow alluvium or shallow Uinta Formation.

### GEOLOGIC SETTING (TABLE 2.1)

The main producing interval in the Three Rivers Field is the Eocene-age lower Green River. Oil is trapped stratigraphically in lenticular fluvial deltaic sandstones deposited on the edges of paleo Lake Uinta, as well as in limestones, and "sandy" limestone intervals deposited in a lacustrine environment with fluctuating lake levels. Separating these producing intervals are shales, siltstones, mudstones and marls deposited during relative lacustrine highstands; these provided the organic material for this self-sourcing petroleum system.

Ultra's proposed waterflood pilot is located on an unfaulted structural monocline that dips three degrees to the north. The clastic reservoirs in the Lower Green River are fine to very fine grained sandstones and siltstones, 5 to 40 feet in thickness. The carbonate reservoirs generally develop below the Travis Shale, are more continuous than the clastic intervals, and are 10 to 60 feet thick. These alternating pay intervals, and interbedded shales and siltstones, are developed across the waterflood pilot and indicate numerous fluctuations of lake levels and variations of the sediment supply.

#### Uinta Formation:

The Uinta Formation overlies the Green River formation. The Uinta consists mostly of alluvial plain sediments deposited after Lake Uinta disappeared and the Uinta Basin began to fill with sediments derived from surrounding uplands. Uinta sediments consist mostly of inter-bedded brown mudstones and siltstones with some inter-bedded light tan very fine grained fluvial sandstones. At the location of the Three Rivers water flood area, the Uinta Formation is approximately 2,283 feet thick and is present at the surface just below the Quaternary/Holocene surficial deposits.

#### Green River Formation:

The Green River Formation is estimated to be found from 2,283 feet to ~ 6,200 feet in the Three Rivers water flood area. The Upper Green River Formation was deposited as a complex sequence of lacustrine and marginal lacustrine sediments consisting of laminated organic-rich carbonate mudstones deposited during high stands of Lake Uinta inter-bedded with basin-margin mudstones, siltstones and fluvial sandstones. During dry-downs of Lake Uinta, soda-rich evaporates were deposited with organic rich basin center mudstones.

Approximately 300 feet of Upper Green River sediments overlie the Birds Nest at the location of Ultra's proposed Three Rivers Water Flood area consists of very dark brown laminated organic-rich mudstones inter-bedded with gray and brown marginal lacustrine siltstones and mudstones. These sediments typically have very low porosity and permeability and are considered to have extremely low vertical permeability in the area of the proposed Three Rivers water flood area.

The Birds Nest aquifer was deposited near the top of the Green River Formation between about 2,455 and 3,173 bgs as the lake dried up and became a restricted evaporitic basin. Sediments of the Birds Nest are characterized as very fine-grained siltstones and mudstones inter-bedded with dark brown laminated organic-rich carbonate mudstones and evaporate beds (nahcolite) up to 2 feet thick.

The Upper Green River Formation, in the 300-500 feet below the Birds Nest, consists of similar sediments as described in the 300 feet of Green River sediments immediately overlying the Birds Nest zone. These sediments are dominated by low permeability mudstones and siltstones. The top of Mahogany Bench occurs approximately at 4,171 feet MD.

The lower Green River Formation (producing zone) is generally between 4,970 feet and 6,729 feet MD and is the proposed EOR injection zone. The top of the Wasatch Formation is about 6,729 feet MD.

**Geologic Setting (TABLE 2.1)**

**TABLE 2.1  
GEOLOGIC SETTING  
TR 2-223-820**

Formation Name	Top (ft)	Base (ft)	TDS (mg/l)	Lithology
Uintah Formation	0	2,811		Sandstone/Shale
Upper Green River	2,811	4,928	63,140	Sandstone/Shale
Lower Green River	4,970	6,729	27,000 - 42,000	Limestone, Sandstone, Shale
Wasatch Formation	6,729			Sandstone / Shale

**Proposed Injection Zone(s) (TABLE 2.2)**

An injection zone is a geological formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that receives fluids through a well. The proposed injection zones are listed in TABLE 2.2.

Injection will occur into an injection zone that is separated from USDWs by a confining zone which is free of known open faults or fractures within the Area of Review.

**TABLE 2.2  
INJECTION ZONES  
TR 2-223-820**

Formation Name	Top (ft)	Base (ft)	TDS (mg/l)	Fracture Gradient (psi/ft)	Porosity	Exempted?*
Lower Green River	4,970	6,684	27,000 - 42,000	0.744		N/A

\* C - Currently Exempted

E - Previously Exempted  
P - Proposed

**Confining Zone(s) (TABLE 2.3)**

A confining zone is a geological formation, part of a formation, or a group of formations that limits fluid movement above the injection zone. The confining zone or zones are listed in TABLE 2.3.

**TABLE 2.3  
CONFINING ZONES  
TR 2-223-820**

Formation Name	Formation Lithology	Top (ft)	Base (ft)
Upper Confining Zone	Shale	4,928	4,970
Lower Confining Zone	Shale	6,684	6,729

**Underground Sources of Drinking Water (USDWs) (TABLE 2.4)**

Aquifers or the portions thereof which contain less than 10,000 mg/l total dissolved solids (TDS) and are being or could in the future be used as a source of drinking water are considered to be USDWs. The USDWs in the area of this facility are identified in TABLE 2.4.

**TABLE 2.4  
UNDERGROUND SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER (USDW)  
TR 2-223-820**

Formation Name	Formation Lithology	Top (ft)	Base (ft)	TDS (mg/l)
Uinta Formation	Sandstone/Shale	0	1,500	

**PART III. Well Construction (40 CFR 146.22)**

**TABLE 3.1**  
**WELL CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS**  
**TR 2-223-820**

Casing Type	Hole Size (in)	Casing Size (in)	Cased Interval (ft)	Cemented Interval (ft)
J-55	7.88	5.50	0 - 6,819	1,200 - 6,818
J-55	12.25	8.63	0 - 922	0 - 922

The approved well completion plan will be incorporated into the Permit as APPENDIX A and will be binding on the Permittee. Modification of the approved plan is allowed under 40 CFR 144.52(a)(1) provided written approval is obtained from the Director prior to actual modification.

**Casing and Cementing (TABLE 3.1)**

The well construction plan was evaluated and determined to be in conformance with standard practices and guidelines that ensure well injection does not result in the movement of fluids into USDWs. Well construction details for this "new" injection well is shown in TABLE 3.1.

Remedial cementing may be required if the casing cement is shown to be inadequate by cement bond log or other demonstration of Part II (External) mechanical integrity.

**Tubing and Packer**

Injection tubing is required to be installed from a packer up to the surface inside the well casing. The packer will be set above the uppermost perforation. The tubing and packer are designed to prevent injection fluid from coming into contact with the outermost casing.

**Tubing-Casing Annulus (TCA)**

The TCA allows the casing, tubing and packer to be pressure-tested periodically for mechanical integrity, and will allow for detection of leaks. The TCA will be filled with fresh water treated with a corrosion inhibitor or other fluid approved by the Director.

**Monitoring Devices**

The permittee will be required to install and maintain wellhead equipment that allows for monitoring pressures and providing access for sampling the injected fluid. Required equipment may include but is not limited to: 1) shut-off valves located at the wellhead on the injection tubing and on the TCA; 2) a flow meter that measures the cumulative volume of injected fluid; 3) fittings or pressure gauges attached to the injection tubing and the TCA for monitoring the injection and TCA pressure; and 4) a tap on the injection line, isolated by shut-off valves, for sampling the injected fluid.

All sampling and measurement taken for monitoring must be representative of the monitored activity.

**PART IV. Area of Review, Corrective Action Plan (40 CFR 144.55)**

**TABLE 4.1  
AOR AND CORRECTIVE ACTION**

Well Name	Type	Status (Abandoned Y/N)	Total Depth (ft)	TOC Depth (ft)	CAP Required (Y/N)
TR2-13-820	Producer	No	6,962	1,621	No
TR2-22-820	Producer	No	6,848	1,720	No
TR2-23-820	Producer	No	7,004	1,472	No
TR2-24-820	Producer	No	6,728	1,950	No
TR2-25-820	Producer	No	6,800	1,800	No
TR2-33-820	Producer	No	6,959	2,288	No

TABLE 4.1 lists the wells in the Area of Review ("AOR") and shows the well type, operating status, depth, top of casing cement ("TOC") and whether a Corrective Action Plan ("CAP") is required for the well.

**Area Of Review**

Applicants for Class I, II (other than "existing" wells) or III injection well Permits are required to identify the location of all known wells within the injection well's Area of Review (AOR) which penetrate the injection zone, or in the case of Class II wells operating over the fracture pressure of the formation, all known wells within the area of review that penetrate formations which may be affected by increased pressure. Under 40 CFR 146.6 the AOR may be a fixed radius of not less than one quarter (1/4) mile or a calculated zone of endangering influence. For Area Permits, a fixed width of not less than one quarter (1/4) mile for the circumscribing area may be used.

**Corrective Action Plan**

For wells in the AOR which are improperly sealed, completed, or abandoned, the applicant shall develop a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) consisting of the steps or modifications that are necessary to prevent movement of fluid into USDWs.

The CAP will be incorporated into the Permit as APPENDIX F and become binding on the permittee.

Corrective action is not currently required for the proposed injection and AOR Wells. Six production wells are within the AOR of the proposed injection well converted from production (TR2-223-820). Two AOR wells (TR2-22-820 and TR2-25-820) have 80% CBI for 18 feet. The following four AOR wells did not achieve 80% CBI for 18 ( 5.5 inch production casing) as typically required for an upper seal in the proposed injector's upper confining zone (CZ). However, considering the bonded cement for these four wells throughout the CZ, the top of cement ranging between 2,682 feet to 3,349 feet above the top of the injection zone, and the distance from the injector, there is no added risk to the USDWs in the area. These four AOR wells are:

- TR2-13-820
- TR2-23-820
- TR2-24-820
- TR2-33-920

## PART V. Well Operation Requirements (40 CFR 146.23)

**TABLE 5.1**  
**INJECTION ZONE PRESSURES**  
TR 2-223-820

Formation Name	Depth Used to Calculate MAIP (ft)	Fracture Gradient (psi/ft)	Initial MAIP (psi)
Lower Green River	4,970	0.744	1,480

### Approved Injection Fluid

The approved injection fluid is limited to Class II injection well fluids pursuant to 40 CFR § 144.6(b). For disposal wells injecting water brought to the surface in connection with natural gas storage operations, or conventional oil or natural gas production, the fluid may be commingled and the well used to inject other Class II wastes such as drilling fluids and spent well completion, treatment and stimulation fluid. Injection of non-exempt wastes, including unused fracturing fluids or acids, gas plant cooling tower cleaning wastes, service wastes, and vacuum truck and drum rinsate from trucks and drums transporting or containing non-exempt waste, is prohibited.

Some fresh makeup water may be utilized under this permit using local water rights as part of the enhanced oil recovery.

### Injection Pressure Limitation

Injection pressure, measured at the wellhead, shall not exceed a maximum calculated to assure that the pressure used during injection does not initiate new fractures or propagate existing fractures in the confining zones adjacent to the USDWs.

The applicant submitted injection fluid density and injection zone data which was used to calculate a formation fracture pressure and to determine the maximum allowable injection pressure (MAIP), as measured at the surface, for this Permit.

TABLE 5.1 lists the fracture gradient for the injection zone and the approved MAIP, determined according to the following formula:

$$FP = [fg - (0.433 * sg)] * d$$

FP = formation fracture pressure (measured at surface)

fg = fracture gradient (from submitted data or tests)

sg = specific gravity (of injected fluid)

d = depth to top of injection zone (or top perforation)

### Injection Volume Limitation

Cumulative injected fluid volume limits are set to assure that injected fluids remain within the boundary of the exempted area. Cumulative injected fluid volume is limited when injection occurs into an aquifer that has been exempted from protection as a USDW.

## **Mechanical Integrity (40 CFR 146.8)**

An injection well has mechanical integrity if:

1. there is no significant leak in the casing, tubing, or packer (Part I); and
2. there is no significant fluid movement into a USDW through vertical channels adjacent to the injection well bore (Part II).

The Permit prohibits injection into a well which lacks mechanical integrity.

The Permit requires that the well demonstrate mechanical integrity prior to injection and periodically thereafter. A demonstration of mechanical integrity includes both internal (Part I) and external (Part II). The methods and frequency for demonstrating Part I and Part II mechanical integrity are dependent upon well-specific conditions as explained below.

## **PART VI. Monitoring, Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements**

### **Injection Well Monitoring Program**

At least once a year the permittee must analyze a sample of the injected fluid for total dissolved solids (TDS), specific conductivity, pH, and specific gravity. This analysis shall be reported to EPA annually as part of the Annual Report to the Director. Any time a new source of injected fluid is added, a fluid analysis shall be made of the new source.

Instantaneous injection pressure, injection flow rate, cumulative fluid volume and TCA pressures must be observed on a weekly basis. A recording, at least once every thirty (30) days, must be made of the injection pressure, annulus pressure, monthly injection flow rate and cumulative fluid volume. This information is required to be reported annually as part of the Annual Report to the Director.

## **PART VII. Plugging and Abandonment Requirements (40 CFR 146.10)**

### **Plugging and Abandonment Plan**

Prior to abandonment, the well shall be plugged in a manner that isolates the injection zone and prevents movement of fluid into or between USDWs, and in accordance with any applicable Federal, State or local law or regulation. Tubing, packer and other downhole apparatus shall be removed. Cement with additives such as accelerators and retarders that control or enhance cement properties may be used for plugs; however, volume-extending additives and gel cements are not approved for plug use. Plug placement shall be verified by tagging. Plugging gel of at least 9.2 lb/gal shall be placed between all plugs. A minimum 50 ft surface plug shall be set inside and outside of the surface casing to seal pathways for fluid migration into the subsurface. Within sixty (60) days after plugging the owner or operator shall submit Plugging Record (EPA Form 7520 13) to the Director. The Plugging Record must be certified as accurate and complete by the person responsible for the plugging operation. The plugging and abandonment plan is described in Appendix E of the Permit.

## **PART VIII. Financial Responsibility (40 CFR 144.52)**

### **Demonstration of Financial Responsibility**

The permittee is required to maintain financial responsibility and resources to close, plug, and abandon the underground injection operation in a manner prescribed by the Director. The permittee shall show evidence of such financial responsibility to the Director by the submission of a surety bond, or other adequate assurance such as financial statements or other materials acceptable to the Director. The Regional Administrator may, on a periodic basis, require the holder of a lifetime permit to submit a revised estimate of the resources needed to plug and abandon the well to reflect inflation of such costs, and a revised demonstration of financial responsibility if necessary. Initially, the operator has chosen to demonstrate financial responsibility with:

Bond Addendum Received March 18, 2016

Evidence of continuing financial responsibility is required to be submitted to the Director annually.

**Public Notice Announcement for immediate publication in:**

*The Vernal Express, Vernal*  
*The Uinta Basin Standard, Roosevelt*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 (EPA) intends to issue an Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit-related action, under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act and UIC Program regulations, that would authorize Ultra Petroleum to convert the TR2-223-820 oil production well to a water injection well for the purpose of enhanced recovery of oil in the Three Rivers Field, located in Uintah County, Utah. The EPA will be issuing a public notice of this proposed action and requesting comment on its website at <http://www.epa.gov/uic/underground-injection-control-epa-region-8-co-mt-nd-sd-ut-and-wy>, for a minimum of 30 days. Notification of any extension of the public comment period will appear at the web address only and will not appear in this newspaper. Alternatively, the public may contact Bill Gallant by email at [gallant.william@epa.gov](mailto:gallant.william@epa.gov), or by phone at 1-800-227-8917 extension 312-6455 or (303) 312-6455, to obtain information about the proposed action, including copies of associated documentation, or to be added to the notification list for any extension of the public comment period and any final EPA decision.

# Public Notice to <https://www2.epa.gov/uic/underground-injection-control-epa-region-8-co-mt-nd-sd-ut-and-wy> upon signature of draft Decision

**Title:** Public Notice of Draft Class II UIC Permit UT22342-11076 for the TR2-223-820 well operated by Ultra Petroleum in Uintah County, Utah

**Summary:** Ultra Petroleum (Ultra) operates several oil producing wells in the Three Rivers Field in Uinta County, Utah. On December 12, 2015, Ultra submitted an Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit application to convert existing oil production well TR2-223-820 (API No. 43-047-53946) to a water injection well for the purpose of enhanced recovery of oil. The requested Class II underground injection well would inject produced water into the lower Green River Formation, from 4,970 feet to 6,684 feet below ground surface. There is no Aquifer Exemption proposed in conjunction with the requested injection well because the Total Dissolved Solids content of injection zone waters is greater than 10,000 mg/L.

**Program/Statute:** Safe Drinking Water Act; Underground Injection Control

**Applicant/Respondent(s):** Ultra Petroleum  
116 Inverness Drive East, Suite 400  
Englewood, Colorado 80112

**Proposed action:** The EPA proposes issuance of Final UIC Permit UT22342-11076 that would authorize the conversion of existing oil production well TR2-223-820 (API No. 43-047-53946), to a water injection well for the purpose of enhanced recovery of oil.

**Permit or application number:** UT22342-11076

**EPA Contact:** William Gallant  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
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