



ISSUANCE DATE AND SIGNATURE PAGE

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PERMIT: CLASS I  
Permit Number AK11017-A**

In compliance with provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), as amended, (42 U.S.C. 300f-300j-9), and attendant regulations incorporated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Caelus Natural Resources Alaska, LLC (Caelus) (Permittee) is authorized to inject non-hazardous industrial waste utilizing up to two (2) Class I injection wells (NDSDW1 and NDSDW2) at the Oooguruk Unit (OU) Nuna Project (NUNA) Nuna drill site (NDS), located in North Slope Borough, Alaska. The onshore NDS is located in the Kuparuk River Unit (KRU) near the Beaufort Sea, about 250 miles north of the Arctic Circle, and approximately forty (40) miles west of Deadhorse (Prudhoe Bay), North Slope, Alaska; however the well(s) will inject below permafrost into the OU. The NDS is 5.5 miles south-southwest of the Oooguruk drill site (ODS). Injection is authorized below permafrost (below Kingak Formation (KiF) and above Kavik Formation (KaF)) into the hypersaline deep subsurface injection zones 7,400 +/- 50 feet true vertical depth (TVD) in reference-to-Kelly-bushing TVD(RKB) to 8,700 +/- 50 feet TVD(RKB). (see reference well Texaco Colville Delta Number 1 well (TCD#1) including Sag River Formation (SRF) and Ivishak Formation (IF), in accordance with Title 40 C.F.R. §144.33 and the conditions set forth herein. The proposed disposal well(s) are in an area where there are no underground sources of drinking water (USDW) below the permafrost. EPA reviewed data from NUNA OU and vicinity. Data show the base of permafrost is commonly 1500 feet below ground surface (BGS) (1515 TVD sub-sea (ss)). Below the continuous permafrost hypersaline aquifer salinity values average 14,204 parts per million (ppm) in the SRF and average 23,645 ppm in the IF. Log data derived mean sodium chloride (NaCl) equivalent salinity values (expressed in parts per million (ppm)) approximate the total dissolved solids (TDS) content expressed in milligrams per liter (mg/l). Based on a review of log data from six (6) wells near OU, on September 19, 2014 the EPA determined that specific portions of aquifers in the SRF and IF within one-half (1/2) mile radius of the boreholes of proposed wells NDSDW1 and NDSDW2 do not qualify under 40 C.F.R. §144.3 as USDW because the concentrations of TDS exceeds 10,000 mg/l in these portions of the aquifers. The proposed top-hole location for well NDSDW1 is latitude 70.422443 degrees North, longitude 150.324629 degrees West. The proposed top-hole location for well NDSDW2 is latitude 70.420071 degrees North, longitude 150.266341 degrees West. All locations use the North American Datum 1983 (NAD83) coordinate convention. The disposal wells are subject to substitution, change or correction. The permit limits injection to naturally saline injection intervals in the SRF and IF in the OU. Injection of hazardous waste as defined under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as amended, (42 USC 6901) or radioactive wastes (other than naturally occurring radioactive material – NORM from pipe scale and radioactive tracer beads) are not authorized under this permit. All references to Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations are to regulation that is in effect on the date that this permit is issued. Figures and appendices are referenced to the permit application for NUNA OU UIC Permit AK-110017-A dated 2016. This permit shall become effective on September 15, 2016, in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 124.15. This permit and the authorization to inject shall expire at midnight, September 14, 2026, unless terminated.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_May\_\_, 2016.

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Edward J. Kowalski, Director  
Office of Compliance and Enforcement  
EPA Region 10 (OCE-101)  
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Seattle, WA 98101

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## PART I

### GENERAL PERMIT CONDITIONS

#### 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 any contaminant into USDWs, except as authorized by 40 CFR Part 146. The underground injection activity, otherwise authorized by this permit shall not allow 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 C.F.R. Part 141 or may otherwise adversely affect the health of persons or the environment. Compliance with this permit during its term constitutes compliance for purposes of enforcement with Part C of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Such compliance does not constitute a defense to any action brought under Section 1431 of the SDWA, or any other law governing protection of public health or the environment from imminent and substantial endangerment to human health or the environment.

This permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated during its term for cause. Issuance of this permit does not convey property rights or mineral 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 State or local law or regulations. This permit does not authorize any above ground generating, handling, storage, or treatment facilities.

This permit is based on the permit application submitted by the permittee in 2016, and supplemental material related to a No USDW ruling by EPA dated September 19, 2014.

#### B. PERMIT ACTIONS

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

This permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause as specified in 40 C.F.R. §§ 144.39 and 144.40. In addition, the permit can undergo minor modifications for cause as specified in 40 C.F.R. § 144.41. The filing of a request for a permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or 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 permit condition.

##### 2. Transfer of Permits

This permit is not transferable to any person except after notice to the Director on APPLICATION TO TRANSFER PERMIT (EPA Form 7520-7) and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 144.38. 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 SDWA. Upon request, electronic submittal may be approved by an EPA authorized representative.

#### 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.

#### D. CONFIDENTIALITY

Claims of confidentiality for the following information will be denied:

1. The name and address of the permittee.
2. Information that deals with the existence, absence, or level of contaminants in drinking water.

## **E. GENERAL DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

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

The permittee shall comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of the SDWA and is grounds for enforcement action, permit termination, revocation and reissuance, 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 C.F.R. § 144.34.

### **2. Penalties for Violations of Permit Conditions**

Any person who violates a permit condition is subject to a civil penalty value calculated on a per day basis of such violation. Any person who willfully or negligently violates permit conditions is subject to a fine of not more than \$37,500 per day of violation and/or being imprisoned for not more than (3) years.

### **3. Duty to Reapply**

If the permittee wishes to continue an activity regulated by this permit after the expiration date of this permit, the permittee must apply for and obtain a new permit. To be timely, a complete application for a new permit must be received at least 180 days before this permit expires.

### **4. 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.

### **5. 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.

### **6. 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. De-characterized waste may be appropriately disposed in a Class I non-hazardous well [refer to 40 C.F.R. § 148.1(d)].

### **7. Duty to Provide Information**

The permittee shall provide to the Director, within a reasonable time, any information, including logging data that the Director may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, terminating this permit, or to determine compliance with this permit. The permittee shall also provide to the Director, upon request, copies of records, including logging data, required to be kept by this permit

## 8. Inspection and Entry

The permittee shall allow the Director, or an authorized EPA 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 are kept under the conditions of this permit;
- b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records (including logging data) that are 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 purposes of assuring permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by SDWA, any contaminants or parameters at any location

## 9. Records

- a. The permittee shall retain records and all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records 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 this permit application for a period of at least three years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application. These periods may be extended by request of the Director at any time. This permit does not require retention of hard copies or original records for the record keeping requirements of the permit are met by retaining the records in electronic or original hard copy format. The original records are not required to be retained when electronic versions are retained.
- b. The permittee shall retain records concerning the nature and composition of all injected fluids until three years after the completion of plugging and abandonment. At the conclusion of the retention period, if the Director so requests, the permittee shall deliver the records to the Director. The permittee shall continue to retain the records after the three-year retention period unless he delivers the records to the Director or obtains written approval from the Director to discard the records. This permit does not require retention of hard copies or original records for the record keeping requirements of the permit are met by retaining the records in electronic or original hard copy format. The original records are not required to be retained when electronic versions are retained.
- c. Records of monitoring information shall include:
  - (1) The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements;
  - (2) The name(s) of the individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements;
  - (3) The date(s) analyses were performed;
  - (4) The name(s) of the individual(s) who performed the analyses;
  - (5) The analytical techniques or methods used; and
  - (6) The results of such analyses.
- d. Monitoring of the nature of injected fluids shall comply with applicable analytical methods cited and described in Table I of 40 C.F.R. § 136.3, in appendix III of 40 C.F.R. Part 261, or in certain circumstances by other methods that have been approved by the Administrator.
- e. All environmental measurements required by the permit, including, but not limited to measurements of pressure, temperature, mechanical integrity, and chemical analyses shall be done in accordance with EPA's Quality Assurance Program Plan.

- f. As part of the COMPLETION REPORT, the permittee must submit a PLAN that describes the procedures to be carried out to obtain detailed chemical and physical analysis of representative samples of the waste including the quality assurance procedures used including the following:
- (1) The parameters for which the waste will be analyzed and the rationale for the selection of these parameters;
  - (2) The test methods that will be used to test for these parameters; and
  - (3) The sampling method that will be used to obtain a representative sample of the waste to be analyzed.

This permit covers two proposed wells, including Class I well NDSW1 and Class I well NDSW2. Substitute wells warrant review prior to approval for substitution. The waste analysis plan (WAP) from the permit application may be incorporated by reference to satisfy the WAP plan submittal requirements. An updated WAP may be incorporated by reference replacing the WAP from the permit application. Upon request of the EPA authorized representative, two field copies of logging data shall be provided to the witnessing official within 24 hours of the logging event. As part of the completion report, two copies of the final logging data shall be provided with the completion report.

- g. The permittee shall require a written manifest for each batch load of waste received for waste streams that are not hard piped and continuous. The manifest shall contain a description of the nature and composition of all injected fluids, date of receipt, source of material received for disposal, name and address of the waste generator, a description of the monitoring performed and the results, a statement stating if the waste is exempt from regulation as hazardous waste as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 261.4, and any information on extraordinary occurrences.

For waste streams that are hard-piped continuously from the source to the wellhead, the permittee shall also provide for continuous, recorded measurement of the discharge rate and shall provide such sampling and testing as may be necessary to provide a description of the nature and composition of all injected fluids, and to support any statements that the waste is exempt from regulation as hazardous waste as defined by 40 CFR § 261.4.

- h. Dates of most recent calibration or maintenance of gauges and meters used for monitoring required by this permit shall be noted on the gauge or meter. Earlier records shall be available through a computerized maintenance history database.

#### 10. Reporting Requirements

The permittee shall give notice to the Director, as soon as possible, of any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility or changes in type of injected waste.

#### 11. Anticipated Noncompliance

The permittee shall give advance notice to the Director of any significant planned changes in the permitted facility or activity that may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.

#### 12. Twenty-Four Hour Reporting

- a. The permittee shall report to the Director or an EPA authorized representative any noncompliance that may endanger health or the environment. Any information shall be provided orally within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. If EPA or the permittee discovers that fluids have moved above the upper confining zone along a wellbore within the area of review (AOR), then injection shall cease until the fluid movement problem can be diagnosed and corrected. The following shall be included as information that must be reported orally within 24 hours:
- (1) Any monitoring or other information that indicates that any contaminant may cause an endangerment to an underground source of drinking water.

- (2) Any noncompliance with a permit condition or malfunction of the injection system.
- b. A written submission shall also be provided in electronic format for release to the public 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 date and times; and, if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. The permittee shall provide email notice to affected stakeholders, such as Tribal Government(s), if warranted as determined by an EPA authorized representative.

### 13. Other Noncompliance

The permittee shall report all other instances of noncompliance not otherwise reported at the time monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information listed in Permit Condition Part I E.12.b.

### 14. Reporting Corrections

When the permittee becomes aware that he/she 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.

### 15. Signatory Requirements

- c. All permit applications, reports required by this permit and other information requested by the Director shall be signed by a principal executive officer of at least the level of vice-president, or by a duly authorized representative of that person. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:
  - (1) The authorization is made in writing by a principal executive of at least the level of vice-president.
  - (2) The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity, such as the position of plant manager, operator of a well or a well field, superintendent, or position of equivalent responsibility. A duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position.
  - (3) The written authorization record is retained on site, an electronic scan copy is submitted to the Director and upon request the original is submitted to the Director or an EPA authorized representative.
- d. If an authorization under paragraph 15.a. of this section is no longer accurate because a different individual or position has responsibility for the overall operation of the facility, a new authorization satisfying the requirements of paragraph 15.a. of this section must be submitted to the Director prior to or together with any reports, information, or applications to be signed by an EPA authorized representative.
- e. Any person signing a document under paragraph 15.a. of this section shall make the following certification:

"I certify under the penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment."

## **F. PLUGGING AND ABANDONMENT**

### **1. Notice of Plugging and Abandonment**

The permittee shall notify the Director no later than 45 days before conversion or abandonment of the well.

### **2. Plugging and Abandonment Report**

The permittee shall plug and abandon the well as provided in the Plugging and Abandonment Plan (7520-6 Attachment Q) of UIC Class I Permit Application submitted by the permittee, which is hereby incorporated as a part of this permit. Within 60 days after plugging any well the permittee shall submit a report to the Director in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 144.51(p). EPA reserves the right to change the manner in which the well will be plugged if the well is not proven to be consistent with EPA requirements for construction and mechanical integrity. The Director may ask the permittee to update the estimated plugging cost periodically.

### **3. Cessation Limitation**

After a cessation of operations of two years, the permittee shall plug and abandon the well in accordance with the plan unless he/she:

- a. Provides notice to the Director; and
- b. Demonstrates that the well will be used in the future; or
- c. Describes actions or procedures, satisfactory to the Director that the permittee will take to ensure that the well will not endanger underground sources of drinking water during the period of temporary abandonment. These actions and procedures shall include compliance with the technical requirements applicable to active injection wells unless waived by the Director.

### **4. Cost Estimate for Plugging and Abandonment**

- a. The permittee is required in the permit application (see 7520-6 attachment R) to estimate the cost of plugging and abandonment of the permitted Class I UIC well(s) per well. Please refer to the permit application (7520-6 attachment R) for the plugging and abandonment cost estimates(s) per well for the year the application is submitted.
- b. The permittee must submit financial assurance and a revised estimate prior to April 30 of each year. The estimate shall be made in accord with 40 C.F.R. § 144.62. The Director or an EPA authorized representative may approve electronic submittal of this requirement provided the permittee retains the original and submits the original upon request.
- c. The permittee must keep at the facility or at the permittee central files in Alaska during the operating life of the facility the latest plugging and abandonment cost estimate.
- d. When the cost estimate changes, the documentation submitted under 40 C.F.R. § 144.63(f) shall be amended as well to ensure that appropriate financial assurance for plugging and abandonment is maintained continuously.
- e. The permittee must notify the Director by registered mail of the commencement of a voluntary or involuntary proceeding 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.

## **G. 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. If the financial test and corporate guarantee provided under 40 C.F.R. § 144.63(f) should change, the permittee shall immediately notify the Director.

The permittee shall not substitute an alternative demonstration of financial responsibility for that

which the Director has approved, unless it has previously submitted evidence of that alternative demonstration to the Director and the Director notifies him that the alternative demonstration of financial responsibility is acceptable.

Consistent with 40 C.F.R. §144.63 and regarding incapacity of owners or operators, guarantors, or financial institutions, the permittee must notify the Director by registered mail of the commencement of a voluntary or involuntary proceeding 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. Furthermore, an owner or operator must notify the Regional Administrator by certified mail of the commencement of a voluntary or involuntary proceeding 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 of a corporate guarantee as specified in 40 C.F.R. § 144.63(f) must make such a notification if he is named as debtor, as required under the terms of the guarantee (See 40 C.F.R. §144.70(f)).

## PART II

### WELL SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

#### A. CONSTRUCTION

##### 1. Casing and Cementing of Existing Sidetrack and/or Replacement Wells

The permittee shall case and cement the well(s) to prevent the movement of fluids into or between underground sources of drinking water other than the authorized injection interval (see II.C.4, below). Casing and cement shall be installed in accordance with a casing and cement program approved by the Director and in accordance with EPA Class I well construction practices (40 C.F.R. § 146.12) and the State of Alaska/AOGCC Regulations (20 AAC § 25.412 and 20 AAC § 25.252). For any Class I wells to be drilled at this location (including replacement/sidetracks), in addition to the above requirements, the permittee shall provide not less than 30 days advance notice to the Director or EPA authorized representative to witness all cementing operations. The 30 days advance notice requirement to witness cementing operations may be revised (either increased or decreased in duration) by the Director or EPA authorized Representative.) If primary cement returns to surface are not observed for the (13 3/8 inch or other) surface casing cementing procedure, the Director or EPA authorized representative is to be notified as to the nature of the augmented testing proposed to ensure the integrity of the cement bond and adequacy of any Top Job procedure. The Cement Bond/Ultrasonic Imaging (USIT or other) logs and pressure tests (leak off test and/or formation integrity test) will be run for both the (13 3/8 inch or other) surface and (9 5/8 inch and 7 inch or other) injection casings to confirm zonal isolation and verify casing integrity. Upon request of the Director or EPA authorized representative, the permittee shall provide all data requested, including but not limited to two (2) field copies of all logging data shall be provided to the witnessing official within 24 hours at the time (within 24 hours) of the well logging activities and two (2) final log copies with the final completion report.

Should a change(s) be required to the design casing and cementing program (due to unanticipated conditions), the Director or EPA authorized representative shall be notified as to the nature of the change(s), so that approval is obtained from the Director or EPA authorized representative enabling the well to be drilled and completed in a safe and successful manner.

The casing, cementing and well construction data will be in compliance with the procedures outlined in construction procedures and construction details (including but not limited to well schematics (7520-6 Attachments L and M) of the permit application.

##### 2. Tubing, Packer and Completion Details of Existing Sidetrack and/or Replacement Wells

The well shall inject fluids through tubing with a packer. Tubing and packer shall be installed in accordance with the procedures in the permit application. In the event that a packer needs to be set or re-set at a revised depth at a later date, the permittee will perform a mechanical integrity test prior to resuming injection, submit the necessary data and obtain authorization from EPA prior to resuming injection. The packer will be set no more than 100' measured depth (MD) from the top of the injection zone unless a greater spacing from the packer to the top of the injection zone is specified and authorized by the Director or EPA authorized representative.

##### 3. New Wells in the Area of Review

EPA has set a quarter mile radius as the Area of Review (AOR) for this Class I UIC permit application. New Class I permitted UIC wells shall be installed in accordance with a casing and cement program approved by the Director and in accordance with EPA Class I well construction practices (40 C.F.R. § 146.12) and will also follow the State of Alaska/AOGCC Regulations (20 AAC 25.412 and 20 AAC 25.252). New wells within the AOR shall be constructed in accordance with the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Regulations Title 20 Chapter 25.

If in the future, any development or service wells are drilled that penetrate the injection intervals

within the area of review, these wells shall have casing cemented to the formation throughout the entire section from 200' TVD below to 200' TVD above the (proposed, revised or updated) injection zone as identified in the permit application.

## **B. CORRECTIVE ACTION**

The applicant has identified no wells in the Area of Review (AOR) which require corrective action in order to prevent fluids from moving above the confining zone. If the applicant later discovers that a well or wells within the AOR require(s) corrective action to prevent fluid movement, then the applicant shall inform the EPA upon such discovery and provide a corrective action plan for EPA review and approval.

## **C. WELL OPERATION**

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

Unless the well has previously (within 180 days) fulfilled requirements of Part II C.1., prior to commencing injection of new, existing sidetrack and/or replacement wells, injection operations pursuant to this permit may not commence until:

- a. Construction is complete and the permittee has submitted two copies of COMPLETION FORM (with logging data) FOR INJECTION WELLS (EPA Form 7520-9, see Attachments to be submitted with the completion report); and
  - (1) The Director or EPA authorized representative has inspected or otherwise reviewed the new, existing, sidetrack or replacement injection well(s) and finds it is in compliance with the conditions of the permit; or
  - (2) The permittee has not received notice from the Director or EPA authorized representative of intent to inspect or otherwise review the new, sidetrack or replacement injection well(s) within thirteen (13) days of EPA receiving the COMPLETION REPORT (with logging data) in which case prior inspection or review is waived and the permittee may commence injection.
- b. The permittee demonstrates that the well has mechanical integrity as described in Part II.C.3. Mechanical Integrity below and the permittee has received notice from the Director or EPA authorized representative that such a demonstration is satisfactory. The permittee shall notify EPA at least two (2) weeks prior to conducting this initial test so that an EPA authorized representative may be present and
- c. The permittee has conducted a step-rate injection test (SRT) and submitted a preliminary report to EPA that summarizes the results. However, upon approval of the Director or EPA authorized representative, if a SRT was conducted on the subject well and the results were submitted to the EPA, then the permittee is not required to conduct another SRT prior to resumption of Class I injection activities or prior to permit renewal.

### **2. During Injection**

The OU Class I facilities shall be manned 24 hours per day by trained and qualified operators while injection is occurring. During injection, the well injection pressure, tubing-casing (inner) annulus pressure, injection rate, will be monitored on a continuous basis. Out-of-limit alarms and shut-off systems will be installed and the injection facility plant shall be monitored by trained and qualified operators during injection. Visual and automatic monitoring of the tubing-casing (inner annulus) and tubing pressures will occur routinely with pre-set, out-of-limit alarms to inform supervisory personnel.

The wellhead, controls, and monitoring instrumentation will be enclosed in an insulated structure.

### **3. Mechanical Integrity**

#### **a. Standards**

The injection well(s) must have and maintain mechanical integrity pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §

146.8.

b. Prohibition without Demonstration of Mechanical Integrity

Injection operations are prohibited after the effective date of this permit unless the permittee has conducted the following tests and submitted the results to the Director:

- (1) In order to demonstrate there is no significant leak in the casing, tubing or packer, the tubing/casing annulus must be pressure tested, in conformation with State of Alaska regulation 200 AAC 25.412 which requires the casing to be tested to 0.25 psi/ft multiplied times the vertical depth of the packer, but not to exceed 70% if the minimum yield strength of the casing. Pressure tests shall show a stabilizing tendency. That is, the pressure may not decline more than 10 percent during the 30-minute test period and shall experience less than one-third of its total loss in the second (last) half of the 30-minute test period. If the total loss exceeds 10 percent or if the loss during the second 15 minute period is equal to or greater than one-half the loss during the first 15 minutes, the permittee may extend the test period for an additional 30 minutes to demonstrate stabilization. However, the MIT meets criteria at the completion of the first 30 minute test if the total pressure loss in the 30 minute period is 2% or less and the pressure loss in the first 15 minutes (first time period) is more than the pressure loss in the second 15 minutes (second time period). After the effective start date of this permit, the SAPT will be required annually until expiration of the ten (10) year permit period. This internal mechanical integrity test (standard annulus pressure test- SAPT) will be required annually if the well is active and once every two (2) years if the well is inactive. If approved by the Director or EPA authorized representative, the internal mechanical integrity test due dates may be extended up to three (3) months to accommodate constraints resulting from drilling, operational or other logistics related to operating in the remote environment. At the discretion of the Director, and depending on the results of the internal annulus mechanical integrity test data, the frequency for demonstrating internal mechanical integrity (no leaks in the tubing-casing annulus or in the tubing-packer assembly) may be revised (either increase or decrease in frequency) as specified and approved by the Director or EPA authorized representative. If a well has been on injection and has successfully demonstrated its mechanical integrity (both internal and external) on an annual basis (with the tests being witnessed by an EPA authorized representative), the well is approved to continue injection upon approval of a permit renewal.
- (2) To detect movement of fluids in vertical channels adjacent to the well bore and to determine that the confining zone is not fractured, an approved fluid movement test shall be conducted at an injection pressure at least equal to the average continuous injection pressure observed in the previous six months. Approved fluid movement tests include, but are not limited to tracer surveys, temperature survey logs (conducted after a 12 hour shut-in/ or at the discretion of the EPA authorized representative), noise logs, oxygen activation/water flow logs (WFL), borax pulse neutron logs (PNL), or other equivalent logs. Fluid movement test procedures must be submitted 30 days in advance and are subject to prior approval by the Director or an EPA authorized representative. Upon request, two field copies shall be provided to the EPA authorized representative immediately upon completion of the logging activities, and final copies of all logs shall be submitted to EPA accompanied by a descriptive and interpretive report. Fluid movement/confinement logs will be run initially upon completion of a new, existing sidetrack and/or replacement well and prior to initiation of injection at start-up.

After acquiring this baseline data, the fluid movement/confinement logs will be required every year while the well is active until expiration of the ten (10) year permit period. If approved by the Director or EPA authorized representative, the external mechanical integrity test due dates may be extended up to three (3) months to accommodate constraints related to operating in the remote environment. At the discretion of the Director or an EPA authorized representative, and depending on the results of the baseline data, the frequency for demonstrating external mechanical integrity (no flow behind pipe and isolation above injection interval) and utilizing alternative diagnostic techniques, may be revised (either increase or decrease in frequency) as specified and approved by the Director or an EPA authorized representative.

- (3) Internal tubing inspection logs (pipe analysis logs, caliper logs, or other equivalent logs) shall be run once every two (2) years while the well is active and may be revised (either increase or decrease in frequency) at the Director or EPA authorized representative's discretion, to monitor well condition, thickness and integrity of the downhole tubing. Inspection log test procedures must be submitted 30 days in advance and are subject to prior approval by the Director or an EPA authorized representative. Tubing liners may be taken into consideration regarding this inspection requirement. If approved by the Director or EPA authorized representative, the test due dates may be extended up to three (3) months to accommodate constraints related to operating in the remote environment. Unless waived by the EPA authorized representative, any exposed section of the injection casing will have to be logged during any scheduled workover for tubing change-out etc. Copies of the logs shall be accompanied by a descriptive and interpretive report.

c. Terms and Reporting

- (1) Two (2) copies of the log(s) and two (2) copies of a descriptive and interpretive report of the mechanical integrity tests identified in 3.b (2) and 3.b (3) shall be submitted within 45 days of completion of the logging. Upon request by an EPA authorized representative, two (2) field copies of log(s) shall be submitted to the EPA authorized representative immediately upon completion of the field logging event.
- (2) Mechanical integrity shall also be demonstrated by the pressure test in 3.b. (1) any time the tubing is removed from the well or if a loss of mechanical integrity becomes evident during operation. The permittee shall report the results of such tests within 45 days of completion of the tests.
- (3) After the initial mechanical integrity demonstration, the permittee shall notify the Director of intent to demonstrate mechanical integrity at least 30 days prior to subsequent demonstrations.
- (4) The Director will notify the permittee of the acceptability of the mechanical integrity demonstration within 13 days of receipt of the results of the mechanical integrity tests. Injection operations may continue during this 13-day review period. If the Director does not respond within 13 days, injection may continue.
- (5) In the event that the well fails to demonstrate mechanical integrity during a test or a loss of mechanical integrity occurs during operation, the permittee shall halt operation immediately and shall not resume operation until the Director or an EPA authorized representative gives approval to resume injection.
- (6) The Director may, by written notice, require the permittee to demonstrate mechanical integrity at any time.

#### 4. Injection Zone

Injection shall be limited to the injection zone (IZ) intervals that include the SRF and IF. The top of the IZ is 7,400 +/- 50 feet TVD(RKB) in the proposed UIC well NDSW1. The base of the IZ is 8,700 +/- 50 feet TVD(RKB) in the proposed UIC well NDSW1. (note: depths in an alternate well (NDSW2) would vary). The upper confining zone (UCZ) includes the Kingak Formation. The top of the UCZ is approximately 6672' TVDRKB in the proposed UIC well NDSW1. The base of the UCZ is approximately 7671' TVDRKB in the proposed UIC well NDSW1. The lower confining zone (LCZ) includes the Kavik Formation. The top of the LCZ is at the base of the IZ at 8,700 +/- 50 feet TVD(RKB) in the proposed UIC well NDSW1.

For reference and correlation purposes, in the TCD#1 reference well, the UCZ base is at 7579' MD/-7500' TVDss (shale dominant from 6375-7579' MD). For reference and correlation purposes, in the TCD#1 well, the LCZ top is at 8582' MD/-8500' TVDss and the LCZ base is at 8707' MD/-8675 feet TVDss (Note: shale is dominant from 8582-8707' MD).

#### 5. Waivers to UIC Program Requirements

As a result of the subsurface aquifer conditions, {in the vicinity of the proposed injection wells (NDSW1 and NDSW2), on September 19, 2014, EPA determined aquifers do not qualify as an USDW for portions of aquifers [from 7,400 +/- 50 TVD(RKB) to 8,700 +/- 50 feet TVD(RKB) within 1/2 mile of the boreholes of the proposed injection wells} EPA is granting the following waivers of UIC regulatory program requirements as listed below:

- (i) Compatibility of Formation and Injectate [40 C.F.R. §§ 146.12 (e) and 146.14 (a) (8)]: Based upon the applicability of past injection studies, petrophysical logging data, existing rock and fluid samples plus successful injection practices into formations in the Prudhoe Bay, Alpine and OU vicinity, EPA is waiving the above two requirements for any additional sampling and characterization of formation fluids and injection rock matrix in order to determine whether or not they are compatible with the proposed injectate.
- (ii) Injection Zone Fracturing, Ambient Monitoring and Pressure Buildup [40 C.F.R. § 146.13 (a) (1), (b) and (d) (1) and (2)]: Based on log surveillance results into formations in the North Slope vicinity that consistently verify no significant upward movement of injected fluids, continuity of geologic formations and that transmission through faulting is not likely to transmit fluid above the confining zone, and there are no improperly sealed, completed, or abandoned wellbores in the area of review, EPA is waiving the above three requirements of an ambient monitoring of saline aquifers above the confining zone, monitoring the strata overlying the confining zone for fluid movement and a monitoring program including a pressure buildup of the injection zone annually. Also, based on the above, EPA is waiving the prohibition against fracturing the injection interval, and would instead allow fracturing to a minor extent at the injection well confined to the injection zone so long as new fractures are not initiated nor existing ones propagated within the upper and lower confining zone. However, in no case shall injection pressure initiate fractures in the confining intervals above and below the injection zone. Authorized injection will be limited to the permitted injection zones in the SRF and IF. However, external mechanical integrity demonstrations are required to verify that all injected fluids are exiting in the injection interval and that there is no flow behind pipe due to channeling etc. [See Part II C.3.b (2)]

#### 6. Injection Rate and Pressure

Injection pressures shall not initiate new fractures or propagate existing fractures in the upper confining zone as that stratigraphic interval is described in the (NUNA) Texaco Colville Delta-1 Type Log (7520-6 Attachment F: See Exhibit 3-1) in the permit application. Injection pressures will average between 1200-3500 psi. Neither shall the maximum injection pressure, measured at the wellhead, exceed 3500 pounds per square inch (psig), except as follows.

In the event of a plant shut-down or outage, there may be instances where injection pressures exceed 3500 psi (unrelated to fluid injection activities). In such instances, the permittee shall notify the Director or an EPA authorized representative by telephone or electronic mail within twenty four (24) hours of the initial exceedance of the 3500 psig limitation and shall submit a written incident report not later than ten (10) days thereafter. Upon request, electronic mail submittal of the incident report may be approved by an EPA authorized representative.

It should be noted that the wellhead working pressure limit of 5000 psig should not be exceeded at any time. Besides alarms and automatic shutdown controls, the wellhead assembly will include a surface safety valve to provide additional security.

#### 7. Annulus Pressure

The annulus between the tubing and the long string casing shall be filled with a corrosion inhibited non-freezing solution. To accommodate swings in wellbore temperatures and tubing thermal expansion, a positive surface pressure up to 1500 psig is authorized for the inner annulus (tubing x long string injection casing).

Since the tubing-casing annulus pressure will vary due to temperature changes, the high-low annulus pressure limits can be adjusted, if necessary and upon approval by the Director or an EPA authorized representative, (to include both the summer and winter ambient temperature variations).

**NOTE:** The authorization of up to 1500 psi on the inner annulus is to enable shut-down and alarm systems to be set at appropriate pressure limits, so as not to shut-down the facility from unintended causes not related to direct injection activities, and is not intended to allow the permittee to continue to maintain the well on injection, in the event of a loss of mechanical integrity or when there is pressure build-up either in the tubing by inner annulus or between the injection casing and surface casing (between the inner annulus by outer annulus), resulting in a potential sustained casing pressure scenario. In the event of a loss of mechanical integrity, then the permittee has to meet the requirements as outlined in Part II.C.3.c.5 of this permit.

#### 8. Injection Fluid Limitation

This permit only authorizes the injection of those fluids identified in the permit documentation. De-characterized waste may be appropriately disposed in a Class I non-hazardous well (refer to 40 C.F.R. § 148.1(d)). Fluids generated from Class I injection well construction and well workover, and fluids generated from the operation and maintenance of Class I injection wells and associated injection well piping, may be disposed in a Class I non-hazardous injection well. No radioactive wastes other than naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) from pipe scale and/or radioactive tracer beads shall be injected for disposal. In the event that third party wastes are accepted, the third party must certify the fluids are eligible for injection.

### **D. MONITORING**

#### 1. Monitoring Requirements

Samples and measurements collected for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the monitored activity.

#### 2. Continuous Monitoring Devices

Continuous monitoring devices shall be installed, maintained, and used to monitor injection pressure and rate for those streams that are hard-piped and continuous, and to monitor the pressure of non-freezing solution in the annulus between the tubing and the long string casing. Calculated flow data are not acceptable except as a back-up system if the primary continuous injection rate device malfunctions. (For clarification, "continuous monitoring" refers to alarms and analogue readings such as pressure and rate that are displayed in the control room. Instrumentation is currently used to monitor key parameters.

Alarms alert operators of high levels and can/do shut down pumps automatically if the high-high level is triggered. In this context “continuous” is a real-time tracking operation; although continuous data is not recorded).

3. Monitoring Direct Waste Injection

Direct waste injection pumping operations at the well site shall be continuously manned and visually monitored. During these pumping operations, a chronological record of the time of day, a description of the waste pumped, injection rate and pressure, and well annulus pressure observations shall be maintained. The person in charge of the pumping operations must be identified on the pumping record.

4. Alarms and Operational Modifications

- a. The permittee shall install, continuously operate, and maintain alarms to detect excess injection pressures and significant changes in annular fluid pressure. These alarms must be of sufficient placement and urgency to alert operators in all operating spaces including but not limited to the control room. The permittee shall install and maintain an emergency shutdown system to respond to losses of internal mechanical integrity as evidenced by deviations in the annular fluid pressures.
- b. Plans and specifications for the alarms shall be submitted to the Director or EPA authorized representative prior to the initiation of injection.

**E. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Permittee hereby consents to EPA posting reports, plans, or other documents, on a website related to the UIC permit, should EPA choose to do so.

1. Quarterly Reports

The permittee shall submit quarterly reports to the Director containing the following information:

- a. Monthly average, maximum, and minimum values for injection pressure, rate, and volume shall be reported on INJECTION WELL MONITORING REPORT (EPA Form 7520-8). Upon request of an EPA authorized representative, an electronic submittal is required.
- b. Graphical plots of continuous injection pressure and rate monitoring.
- c. Daily monitoring data in an electronic format.
- d. Physical, chemical, and other relevant characteristics of the injected fluid.
- e. Any well workover or other significant maintenance of downhole or injection-related surface components.
- f. Results of all mechanical integrity tests performed since the previous report including any maintenance-related tests and any “practice” tests.
- g. Any other tests required by the Director.

2. Annual Reports

An annual performance report covering the period October 1 of the previous year through September 30 of the report year shall be submitted on or before November 30. The report shall include rate and pressure performance, surveillance logging, fill depth. Survey results and volumetric analyses of the disposal storage volume. When warranted, an estimate of the fracture growth shall also be included in the report. At the discretion of the Director or an EPA authorized representative, and depending on other reporting requirements or the results of the injection data, the timing, content and frequency of this reporting may be revised (either increase or decrease in content or frequency) as specified and approved by the Director or an EPA authorized representative.

3. Report Certification

All reporting and notification required by this permit shall be signed and certified in accordance with Part I.E.15; electronically stored and maintained at the permittee's facility, or company headquarters; electronically submitted to an electronic (email) address provided by the Director or an EPA authorized representative; and upon request by the Director or an EPA authorized representative, submitted as a hard copy to the following address:

UIC Manager, Ground Water Unit (OCE-101)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, Washington 98101

## **APPENDIX A. REPORTING FORMS**

The following forms are available on the [EPA's web site](#)

7520-7 APPLICATION TO TRANSFER PERMIT

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-01/documents/7520-7\\_508c\\_0.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-01/documents/7520-7_508c_0.pdf)

7520-8 INJECTION WELL MONITORING REPORT

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-01/documents/7520-9\\_508c\\_0.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-01/documents/7520-9_508c_0.pdf)

7520-9 COMPLETION FORM FOR INJECTION WELLS

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-01/documents/7520-9\\_508c\\_0.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-01/documents/7520-9_508c_0.pdf)