United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Office of Compliance and Enforcement (OCE-101) Ground Water Unit
Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF AN UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL (UIC) CLASS I PERMIT FOR THE DISPOSAL OF NON-HAZARDOUS FLUIDS AT THE WEST MCARTHUR RIVER UNIT (WMRU) AND REDOUBT UNIT (RU), COOK INLET, ALASKA

Public Notice Issuance Date: **July 13, 2016**
Closure Date: **August 15, 2016**

1. Applicant

Cook Inlet Energy, LLC
601 W 5th Ave, Suite 301
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
EPA Permit Number: **AK1I007-B**

2. Background

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has direct implementation responsibility in Alaska for the regulation of Class I injection wells through the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program, which is authorized by Part C of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Class I injection wells are used for the deep disposal of fluids into naturally saline aquifers beneath any aquifers which could serve as current or future underground sources of drinking water (USDWs).

The ten (10) year EPA UIC Class I non-hazardous (NH) permit (AK1I007-A) issued on October 12, 2006 for Class I injection activities will expire on October 11, 2016. The permit holder has applied for re-issuance of this permit to operate two Class I wells in lower Cook Inlet, Kenai Borough, Alaska, approximately 50 miles southwest from Anchorage. The applicant has requested that the EPA re-issue this permit to assure uninterrupted operation of existing Class I disposal options through two wells (WMRU 4D and RU D1) that are currently used for the disposal of NH fluids (including but not limited to Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Exploration and Production (E&P) exempt and non-exempt fluids, treated sewage effluent fluids and oilfield produced fluids). The geologic setting at this location is compatible with the proposed deep disposal process. The naturally saline intervals of the Upper Tyonek Formations have been used successfully for the disposal of Class I fluids below the sub-sea surface for over nine (9) years. The currently active Class I injection wells are both drilled to depths of greater than 5,000 feet (‘) measured from the surface (MD). Well RU D1 injects into perforated intervals from 7,650’ MD to 8,450’ MD, and WMRU 4D injects at 5,708’ MD and 6,130’ MD. The proposed EPA Class I UIC permit for re-issuance would continue to limit injection to the naturally saline (greater than 10,000 milligrams/liter (mg/l) total dissolved solids (TDS)) existing injection intervals in Tyonek formation as outlined in the permit.

The EPA has reviewed the application submitted and determined that underground injection is an appropriate disposal method for non-hazardous waste fluids and oilfield produced water. Class I injection wells are an environmentally sound method for disposal of exempt and non-exempt waste fluids, including but not limited to treated effluent. Underground injection minimizes above-ground storage of wastes and avoids discharge of oilfield production and domestic wastes to the surface waters of Cook Inlet.

Class I wells reduce handling and transportation activities, replacing this disposal option with another; subsurface injection in a controlled manner. Issuance of Cook Inlet Energy's Class I UIC Permit Number AK-1I007-B will allow the EPA to perform and maintain oversight and inspection of the wells.

During the lifespan of the previous permit, the EPA has inspected WMRU 4D and RU D1 on an annual basis. The most recent Class I mechanical integrity tests were witnessed by EPA in February, 2016. The EPA retains its discretion and flexibility to either increase or decrease frequency of testing.

3. Tentative Determination

The EPA has tentatively determined to re-issue a 10 year UIC permit to the above listed applicant.

4. Public Comments

The Public Comment Period opens on the above-referenced Public Notice Issuance Date and closes at **5 p.m.** Pacific Daylight Time on the above referenced Closure Date. Persons wishing to comment must do so in writing by the close of the Public Comment Period. All comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting, a concise statement of the exact basis of any comment, and the relevant facts upon which it is based. All written comments and requests should be submitted to **Evan Osborne** of the UIC program at the above address or via E-mail to: Osborne.evan@epa.gov.

5. Public Hearings

The Environmental Protection Agency has tentatively scheduled a public hearing to be held on **Wednesday, August 10, 2016** at **2 p.m.**, Alaska Time Zone in the EPA Alaska Operations Office, Room 526A, Federal Building, located at 222 West 7th Avenue, Suite #19, Anchorage, AK 99513-7500. However, this hearing may be canceled in the absence of any specific written requests for such a hearing. Written requests for a hearing on the proposed permit re-issuance must be received by **Evan Osborne** at the above street address or via E-mail at Osborne.evan@epa.gov not later than **July 27, 2016** at **5 p.m.** Pacific Time (PDT).

6. Administrative Record

Copies of the proposed UIC permit, fact sheet and permit application are on file and may be viewed at the **EPA Regional Office Library**, located at 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA between **9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.** PDT, Monday through Friday.

Copies of the proposed permit and fact sheet may be requested from **Evan Osborne** at 206-553-1747 or via e-mail at osborne.evan@epa.gov. Copies may also be obtained from the EPA's **Alaska Operations Office**, Room 537, Federal Building, 222 West 7th Avenue, Suite #19, Mail Stop AOO-A, Anchorage, AK 99513-7500 • phone 907-271-5083 • or through the Internet: https://www.epa.gov/uic/uic-permits-issued-epa-region-10.