



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Sent via email only

June 2, 2022

Kristine Boyer
Environmental Health & Safety Manager
ContourGlobal
34759 Lencioni Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308-9797

Re: Major Permit Modification Related to MASIP
Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permit No. R9UIC-CA1-FY17-2
Live Oak WD-1, Class I Non-hazardous Waste Injection Well

Dear Ms. Boyer:

Enclosed is a Major Modification to Permit No. R9UIC-CA1-FY17-2, issued to Live Oak Limited (Live Oak) for the operation of Well Live Oak WD-1. This major modification reflects a revised method for calculating the maximum allowable surface injection pressure (MASIP) for Well Live Oak WD-1. This major permit modification is issued in accordance with UIC regulations at 40 C.F.R §144.39. The permit modification is effective immediately¹.

Based on the revised method and data/results from Live Oak's step rate test report dated July 10, 2020, EPA has concluded that the MASIP and maximum allowable injection rate for Well Live Oak WD-1 should be three hundred and seventeen (317) pounds per square inch and one thousand and three hundred seventy-five (1,375) barrels per day, respectively.

If you have any questions regarding the permit modification, please contact me at (415) 972-3971, or call Calvin Ho at (415) 972-3262.

Sincerely,

DAVID
ALBRIGHT

David Albright
Manager, Groundwater Protection Section

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ALBRIGHT
Date: 2022.06.02 16:53:39
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Enclosure

cc (via email): Chris Jones, CalGEM Inland District
Clay Rodgers, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

¹ EPA made a draft of the permit modification available for public comment and only received a letter from Live Oak in support of the proposed permit changes, dated April 18, 2022.



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MAJOR MODIFICATION TO PERMIT NO. R9UIC-CA1-FY17-2
ISSUED TO LIVE OAK LIMITED

In accordance with 40 CFR §144.39, this Permit is hereby modified to reflect a revised method for calculating the maximum allowable surface injection pressure (MASIP) for Well Live Oak WD-1.

Portions of page 14 of the Permit are revised to incorporate the above change and now read as follows (for clarity, changes are shown with removals struck out and with new additions **emboldened and underlined**):

Page 14

3. Injection Pressure Limitation

For Well Live Oak WD-1:

- a. ~~Maximum allowable injection pressure (MAIP) will be set at 80% of the calculated fracture pressure at the surface without consideration of friction losses, or the maximum safe operating pressure of the injection equipment, whichever is less. The applicable fracture gradient will be based on results of the SRT conducted in Well Live Oak WD-1 in the Famoso Sand injection zone pursuant to Section H.B.4.a. EPA will provide the Permittee written notification of the MAIP once it has been calculated pursuant to the above restrictions, which will become the enforceable MAIP pursuant to this Permit. Once established, the approved MAIP will be added to this Permit as an attachment. The Permittee shall limit injection pressure to the lesser of MAIP or the safe operating pressure, as described in Appendix H of this Permit, until the SRT is conducted and evaluated by EPA.~~ **Maximum allowable injection pressure, as measured at the surface (MASIP or Maximum Allowable Surface Injection Pressure), shall typically be set to a value calculated using the following equation, or the maximum safe operating pressure of the injection equipment, whichever is less.**

$$\text{MASIP} = [(\text{FG} - 0.433 \times \text{SG}) \times \text{D} + \text{FL}] \times 0.80$$

The terms used in the equation are defined as:

- **“FG” is the fracture gradient of the injection zone in pounds per square inch/foot (psi/ft). The FG value shall be determined by conducting a valid Step Rate Test (SRT) and is subject to EPA’s review and approval.**

- “0.433” is the pressure gradient of freshwater in psi/ft.
- “SG” is the specific gravity of the injection fluid obtained from a representative fluid sample.
- “D” is the true vertical depth in feet measured from an established surface reference point to the top open perforation.
- “FL” is the pressure loss due to friction in psi, the difference between the surface pressure plus the hydrostatic pressure and the bottomhole pressure. The FL value shall be determined by using direct gauge measurements of the surface and bottomhole pressures during the SRT and is subject to EPA’s review and approval.
- “0.80” is the safety factor.

If the injection zone fracture pressure is not reached during the SRT, EPA will establish the MASIP using the same methodology above with the assumption that the FG value is a ratio of the maximum bottomhole pressure measured by gauge during the SRT to the depth of the bottomhole pressure gauge.

All other permit conditions remain unchanged. This major modification is effective on June 1, 2022.

**TOMAS
TORRES** Digitally signed by
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Tomás Torres, Director
Water Division, EPA Region 9